The Marker Lamp

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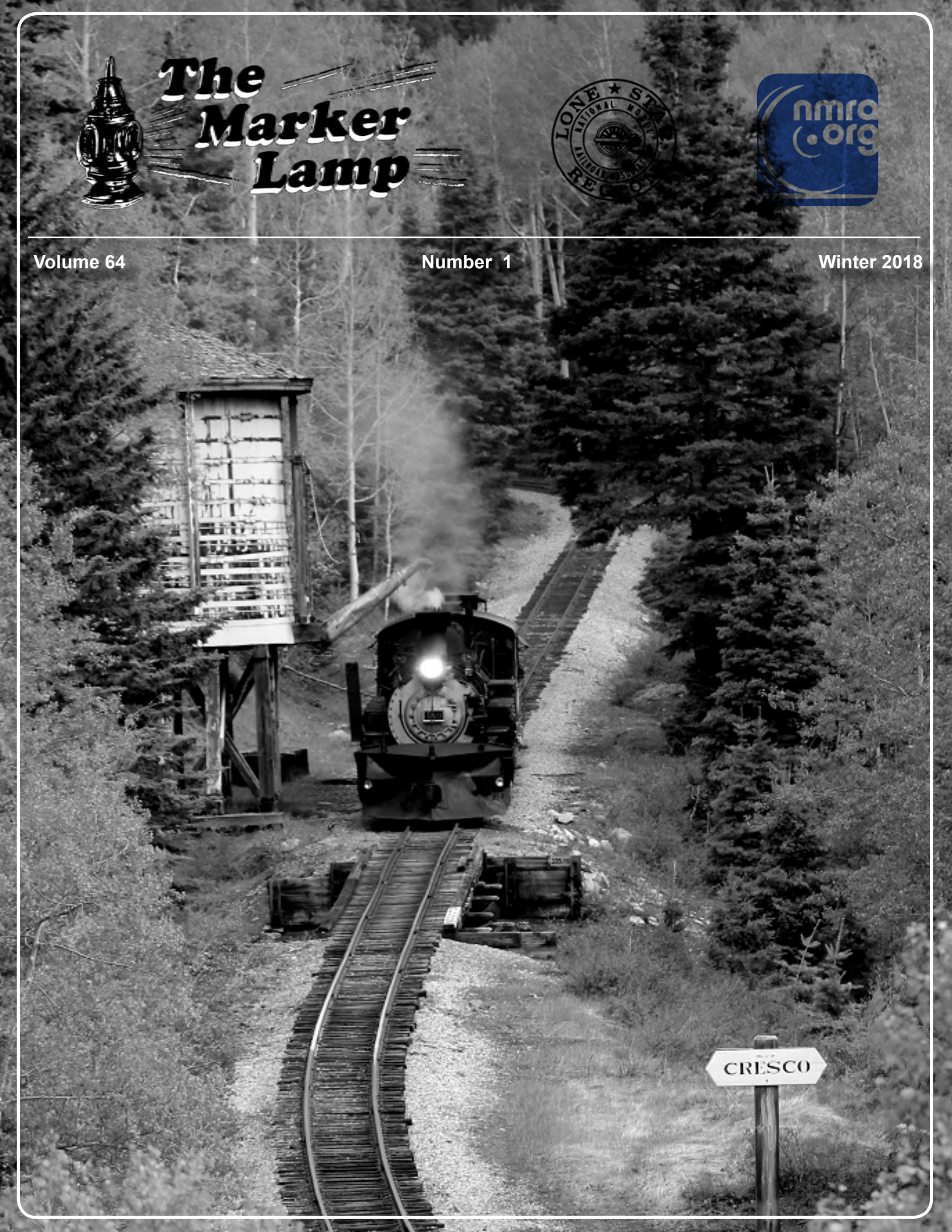

The Marker Lamp

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Speed Muller gertmul@gmail.com

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President's Message

by Chuck Lind, MMR
Chucklind46@gmail.com

Here is hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas. I know that there are still a few modelers that are still working on getting their houses back in order after Hurricane Harvey. As I drive into Houston I still see the work being done.

I have just returned from the Mid-Year Board meeting in Round Rock. We heard a report from the Austin Committee and what they have planned for us, so be sure to mark the date June 13-17 at the Wingate by Wyndham in Round Rock. Lots of activities, clinics, prototype tours, and ladies' activities will keep you busy.

The Board met at the convention hotel in Round Rock and we had many important items facing us, with the biggest one being the convention in 2019. Our attendance at our annual convention has been declining over the past 10 years which is making it more difficult for us to secure and pay for a facility.

Our convention chair, Marc LaChey, has been contacting Divisions both in and outside our Region with no prospects for a 2019 convention. After lots of discussion Division 3 said they would take care of the 2019 convention and Houston will take care of the 2020 convention. Will these conventions be like the ones we have been doing? Definitely not! For those of us that have been in the LSR for many years, we remember conventions that started on Friday and ended Sunday with layout tours. We are looking to return to something closer to that.

The host cities were told to look outside the box when they are planning, so we will see a shorter convention and maybe tied to other activities like a train show. So, let's all meet in Round Rock this year and see what Division 3 and 8 have planned for us.

On other Board business, it was announced that Bob Barnett has just received his Master Modeler, congratulation Bob.

Jim Lemmond submitted four Youth Award nominees to the Board which all were approved. They are as follows Chris Johnson-Carr, Trey (Jack) Wood, Sam Nicastro and Toby Buxton all of them are very active in model railroading. Remember the youth are the future of the hobby if you know a youth that would be deserving please contact Jim Lemmond and he will assist you with the paperwork.

Kevin Bergeman of Division 6 announced he will be stepping down for the remainder of his term which ends in May. I want to thank Kevin for his time on the Board. The Board voted to have Don Winn fill out the unexpired term since he is the only name on the ballot for the Division 6 Director.

We had a person outside our region that wanted to make a difference with veterans and active duty military personnel. He made a donation of $1,500.00 for NMRA memberships for active duty and veterans. That amounts to 20 full memberships! The Board voted to allow each Division to issue two memberships and see where we are in June. At that time the Board may reshuffle things.

I hope that your New Year plans allow you more time to enjoy this great hobby.

2018 Austin Eagle Convention Clinics

by Riley Triggs
rileytriggs@gmail.com
ponyrr.blogspot.com
modelrailroaddesign.blogspot.com

David Colvin will be giving a clinic on applications of LED lighting on Richard Kamm's Sue Line

This year's Austin Eagle Lone Star Region Convention June 13-17 is going to be another fun time in Austin. My part is to wrangle up a few fine modelers to pass on their knowledge and inspiration to the rest of us on a variety of topics.

So far we have a really interesting lineup starting with a couple of very special guests. From Toronto Trevor Marshall, a long-time model railroader, host of the Model Railway Show and TrainMasters.TV, and frequent contributor to *Railroad Model Craftsman* and *Model Railroader* will present not only a clinic, but he will also be our banquet speaker. Trevor has modeled extensively in several scales, and he is currently modeling Port Rowan, a Canadian National layout in S scale.

Another very special guest coming from Maryland is Lance Mindheim who builds custom layouts, is an author of several articles and model railroad books, and his layouts have appeared in *Model Railroader* and *Great Model Railroads*. He focuses on realistic prototype railroading favoring quality of experience over quantity of layout.

Also this year we are featuring several make and take and hands on clinics. One of these will be by Pete Leach as a follow up from last year's demonstration of his backdrop painting techniques. Twelve lucky people will be able to actually try

Pete Leach will be conducting a hands on clinic on backdrop painting

out these techniques with Pete's guidance. The way he creates buildings and other structures on the backdrop is truly eye opening.

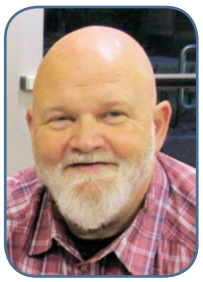
Also on tap is *Marker Lamp* Associate Editor and columnist Speed Muller who will be doing two make and take Arduino microcontroller clinics. One will be a beginners' clinic in which you will go home with a welding light, a campfire and a working traffic light. Speed will also be offering an advanced clinic making a working speedometer for your layout. Costs are $15 each, which will supply the raw materials needed.

Sign up for these make and take and hands on clinics on the austineagle.org web site in the coming weeks as details for them finalize.

Our clinic offerings are almost full, but we need a few more to round out the schedule. If you would like to present this year, please give me a shout at rileytriggs@gmail.com, and we'll find you a spot!

Riley

Up the Tracks Events Calendar



By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

Lone Star Region 67th Annual Convention (2018)
Arriving Soon, the Austin Eagle, the 2018 NMRA Lone Star Region Convention!
June 13-17, 2018; Wingate by Windham Hotel and Conference Center; Round Rock, TX
More information at https://austineagle.org/ or http://www.lonestarregion.com/
Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division – Allen
The Trinity River Division meets on the Second Saturday of every month at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Allen. Occasionally the day or branch changes due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the e-mail meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list contact Jerry Hoverson at JKHoverson@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin
The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see http://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston
The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is http://texasgulfdivision.org/

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White – rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Plano

The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to check on our progress in setting up operations. Located in Colin Creek Mall, Plano, TX, outside JC Penney's on the lower level. For more information: www.modelrailroadclub.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

February

17th Greater Houston Train Show. (Sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adult $6, 12 to 18 $1, children under 12 Free. Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Road @ Murphy Road, Stafford, TX.
More information: http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/

17th – 18th Great Texas Train Show. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Onsite Adult Admission is $2.00, Kids under 11 Free. Premier Events Center, Lakeland Plaza, 1165 S Stemmons Freeway, Lewisville, TX. More information: http://trainshow.com/greattexastrainshow/

24th – 25th SAMRA 42nd Annual Jamboree & Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, under 16 Free (limit 3) with paid adult admission. Garden Ridge Community Center, 9500 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX. For more information: http://www.samratx.org/shows.html.

March

3rd Train-A-Palooza Model Train Swap Meet. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Heritage Center, 707 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX.
More information: (469) 343-6791 or www.lonestarhirailers.com

12th – 16th; 17th; 23rd – 24th Grapevine Vintage Railroad Special Events. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets & Info (817) 410-3185. Grapevine Vintage Railroad, 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX. Tickets & Info (817) 410-3185.
More information: www.gvrr.com

17th – 18th Cotton Belt Historical Society, Tyler TAP Chapter Annual Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, under 12 Free. East Texas Fairgrounds, Harvey Convention Center, 2000 West Front Street, Tyler, TX.
More information: http://trainshow.com/greattexastrainshow/

April

7th TW TrainWorx 5th Annual Layout Festival. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. $10.00 Single, $20.00 Family (Proceeds benefitting Ronald McDonald House of Dallas) 2808 McGowan St., Dallas, TX. More information: (214) 634-2965 or (877) 881-4997 or http://www.twtrainworx.com

5th – 7th and your friends. 33rd Annual Sn3 Symposium. Contest, clinics, layouts and some of your favorite Narrow Gauge manufacturers await you Sponsored by the Lone Star Region-NMRA. Registration $45.00 before February 1st, $55.00 after. Hyatt Place Dallas/Garland and Firewheel Conference Center Hotel, 5101 North President George Bush Highway, Garland, TX.
ore information: bu1977@att.net, www.2018Sn3Symposium.com or call (214) 507-7779

14th – 15th New Braunfels Annual Spring Jamboree & Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults 14 & Over $8, Kids 5 to 13 $2, Kids Under 5 Free. New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/trainshow.

May

5th Annual Heritage Day Festival. Sat. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Admission: Free. Texas & Pacific Depot, 1 Center Street, Bonham, TX. For more information: http://visitbonham.com/upcoming-events/12th-annual-heritage-day-celebration/.

19th – 20th Historic Jefferson Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult $7, Kids under 6 Free. 223 W. Austin Street, Jefferson, TX. More information: Norman Bell (903) 240-6039, or http://historicjeffersontrainshow.com/.

September

29th – 30th Dallas Area Annual Fall Train Show. (Sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult $10, Kids under 12 w/ Adult Free, Scouts & Scout Leaders in uniform Free. Plano Civic Centre, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: www.dfttrainshows.com

October

6th Annual Cotton Belt Railroad Symposium. Sam Rayburn Student Center, Texas A&M Student Center, Commerce, TX. For more information: www.cottonbeltroute.com.

Excursion Train Trips

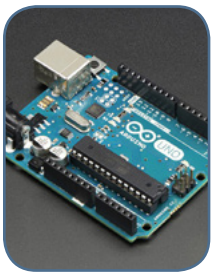
Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the follow



...RRRduino...

by Speed
www.TxNamib.com

EEPROM and the Serial Port!

Hey wait, stick to English here, what is EEPROM? First, it is the acronym for Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory. Second, it is used these days, as built into micro-controllers, to save your data or settings on the microchip, so when you turn the power off and back on, your data is still there. Imagine a DCC decoder where you have to program every CV again when you turn the layout back on or put the engine back on the track. Not going to work for me, EEPROM saves the day, by allowing the data, stored in the CVs (Configuration Variables) to be saved and remembered when there is no power.

So the Arduino micro-controllers we play with here have a) Flash Program Memory, storing our instructions or code (that can be updated with a bootloader); b) RAM or SRAM (static random access memory) where all your variables like `int i = 3;` is stored as long as there is power and c) EEPROM, a place where data can survive through a power cycle.

The Flash Program Memory also survives a power cycle or else the chip would forget your program every time it is turned off. It can only be programmed by erasing and rewriting it in large blocks, like when you upload your program, so it is not convenient at all to store just a byte like CV29.

According to https://www.arduino.cc/en/Tutorial/Memory the ATmega328P chip, now made by Microchip, has 32kB Flash Program Memory, 2kB RAM (Random Access Memory) and 1kB of EEPROM storage...that is 1024 bytes with each 8 bits. And sure, every 1kB is 1024 bytes.

So there you have it, we can store 1024 CVs on a Nano or Uno, if we were creating a DCC decoder. Then there is also some bad news: an EEPROM has a limit on how many times you can erase and write to it...but, some better news, they only promise a 100,000 cycles. Wait, say again, 100k? Sure, you can update your CV29 a hundred thousand times. Project canceled? Maybe not, if you update your CV29 every hour, you will spend more than 11 years doing it! For small railroad projects, the number of cycles is bigger than we would need to worry about, but if you have to store a value from a sensor in the same EEPROM location every second, you might want to look into computing a CRC on it and store that too. Now you have a chance of knowing when the EEPROM location is not useful anymore when the CRC does not match. The next thing to consider is moving the location where you store the value to other locations in the EEPROM to get more cycles. Also keep in mind that a write to EEPROM takes some time (a lot more than writing to RAM) and the power might turn off while writing, so consider writing it in two place and compare them when starting up. If they are not equal, use a default value instead or make another plan.

Back to the basic idea...because we know that other people has done this too, and there might be many uses for storing something in EEPROM, we would expect that there is a library in the Arduino environment to make this easy...so all you really need is `#include <EEPROM.h>`

Then you need the simple write command to say where and what to be written:

FirstEEPROM

Board as Arduino Nano | SHARE

FirstEEPROM.ino | ReadMe.adoc

```
/*
  Store a value in EEPROM location 200 and then
  read it back every second in loop()
*/

#include <EEPROM.h>

#define LOCATION 200

byte value;

void setup( ) {
  Serial.begin( 115200 );
  value = 65;              // ASCII for 'A'
  EEPROM.write( LOCATION, value );
} // setup( )

void loop( ) {
  delay( 1000 );
  Serial.write( EEPROM.read( LOCATION ) );
} // loop( )

```

https://create.arduino.cc/editor/RRRduino/72a71fe8-520e-4045-b666-a23dfa8bc47b/preview

The Serial Port:

The second part of this article it to talk about the Serial Port. In the old days we connected things with serial cables using RS232 on DB9 connectors, remember the guy by the yellow pointer? My first mouse plugged into a port like that. That port showed up in Windows as COM1 and in Linux as /dev/ttyS1 and in the simplest implementations you only used pins 2, 3 and 5 (Rx, Tx and GND) to receive and transmit data at a specific baud rate (back then 300 or 1200, today we easily do 57600 or 115200, with 9600 pretty common). [*Side note: this same Tx is where* ***Tx****Namib came from, since we model the* ***Trans****Namib Railroad in Namibia. And only then did we move to Texas. I also had to give up my 232 telephone extension.*]

Today however, we mostly use USB cables, and on the Arduino end of the cable is an USB to RS232 converter and it is initializes the device driver on you PC accordingly: Windows gives you a COM4 and Linux and Mac a /dev/ttyUSB0 or /dev/ttyACM0. We only care because this gives our computer a way to talk to the Arduino over that same USB cable that we used to program it with, when our program is running.

The `Serial.begin( 115200 );` sets the baud rate up on the Arduino side and on the PC side the Arduino IDE or plugin for the Web Editor has a setting that should match. The IDE and plugin sends a "reset" command to the Arduino when you open up the Tools → Serial Monitor, or select DISCONNECT and CONNECT in the browser, so you almost always see the program run from the beginning. That is why I like to do a version and date as `Serial.println( "EEPROM program for ML version 2b, 2018.01.30" );` so I can tell what program is currently on the Nano. Just plug it into a Serial Monitor and read the program name off the screen.

To send information from the Arduino towards the PC (or another Arduino, Raspberry Pi or printer), you have options from `Serial.print()`, `println()`, `write( val )`, `write( str )` or `write( buf, len ).`

The code to read from the Serial Port is shown in the sketch below using `Serial.available()` first, which allows you to do something when a byte is available in the buffer. Otherwise you need to do a `Serial.read()` and block the whole program until it gets the data or times out after you did a `Serial.setTimeout()` first to shorten the blocking call's wait.

In the program we check if something was ever written to the EEPROM by reading the byte at location 0 and if not we will ask you for 4 characters to store in the EEPROM as the password. When the first password is written we update location 0 with 0x5A (can anyone tell why we like 0x5A?) so next time we start up we know the password has been saved and then we ask you to guess and enter it. If correct, you get a chance to pick a new one. If wrong, guess again! Since the 0x5A is written with the first password stored, there is no easy way to remove it again, in case you want to start everything from scratch again. So a "factory reset" was added when you use a '!' as the 4th character when setting the password. This will overwrite the 0x5A with 0xFF so the next power up will be like brand new.

```
/*
  Store password in EEPROM location 1-4 and then guess it with the next powerup. Guessing right
  will let you pick a new password. 'xxx!' will do a "factory reset", since EEPROM location stores
  0x5A in the first location if a password is stored. The reset will clear the 0x5A.
*/

#include <EEPROM.h>

#define LOCATION    0
#define STORED   0x5A
#define CHARS       4

String passWord;
String savedWord;
```

```
void setup( ) {
  Serial.begin( 115200 );                                          // set the baud rate
  delay( 500 );                                                    // give it a chance to settle in
  Serial.println("\n\nPasswordGuess, rev 2, 2018.01.30");          // print the label
  if ( EEPROM.read( LOCATION ) == STORED ) {                       // check if initialized
    for( int i = 0; i < CHARS; ++i ) {                             // if initialized, read all
      savedWord.concat( char( EEPROM.read( LOCATION+i+1 ) ) );     // plus one since 0x5A is in zero
    } // for
    savedWord.trim();                                              // trim all the whitespace out
    Serial.println("Password stored!");
  } else {
    Serial.println("Password needed!");
    pickNewWord( );
  } // if
  Serial.print( "Please guess the password? " );
} // setup( )

// pick and then save a new password. If 4th is a '!' reset the EEPROM with 5 0xFFs
void pickNewWord( ) {
  Serial.print( "Give us 4 characters for a password? " );
  while( 1 ) {
    if ( Serial.available( ) ) {
      passWord = Serial.readString();
      passWord.trim();                                              // trim all the whitespace out
      Serial.println( passWord );
      if ( passWord.length( ) == CHARS ) {
        saveNewWord( passWord );
        Serial.println( "Thank you." );
        if ( passWord.charAt( 3 ) == '!' ) {
          factoryReset();
          Serial.print( "Give us 4 characters for a password? " );
        } else {
          break;
        } // if factoryReset needed
      } // if long enough
    } // if available
  } // while waiting for a password
} // pickNewWord( )

// save the word to the EEPROM and set the marker with 0x5A that we did initialize
void saveNewWord( String theWord ) {
  savedWord = theWord;
  for( int i = 0; i < CHARS; ++i ) {
    // plus one since 0x5A is in zero
    EEPROM.write( LOCATION+i+1, savedWord.charAt( i ) );   // write all 4 chars
  } // for
  EEPROM.write( LOCATION, STORED );                        // write the marker
} // saveNewWord( )
```

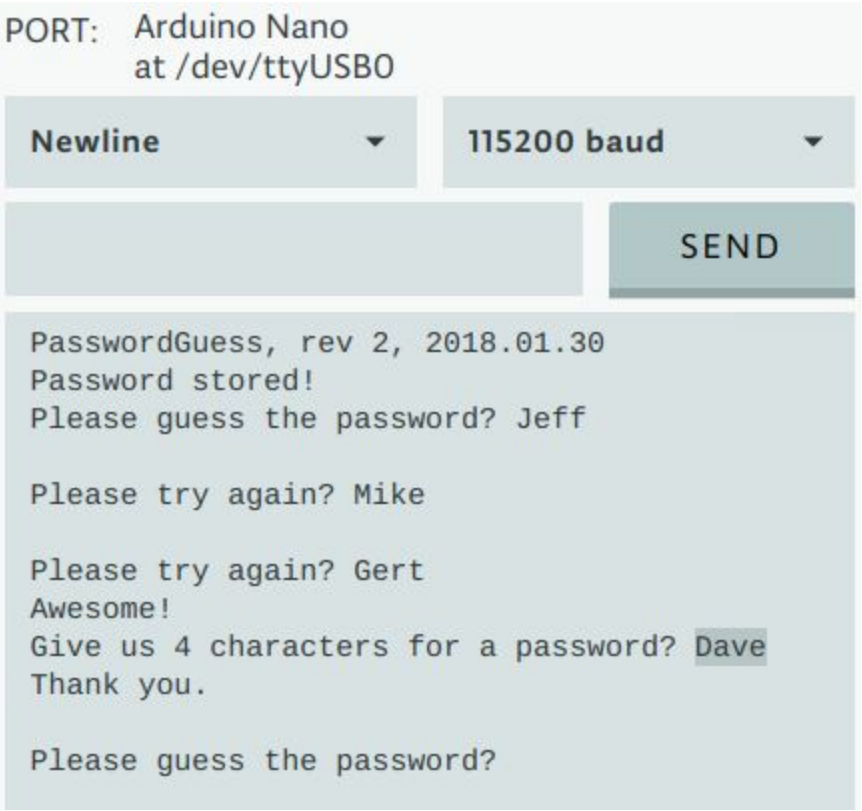
```
// overwrite all 5 EEPROM bytes with 0xFF
void factoryReset( ) {
  savedWord = "";
  for( int i = 0; i < CHARS+1; ++i ) {          // for all 5 EEPROM bytes
    EEPROM.write( LOCATION+i, 0xFF );           // write 0xFF to LOCATION+i
  } // for
} // factoryReset( )

// wait for data from serial port, compare to password and ask again of wrong and pick
// a new password if correct
void loop( ) {
  if ( Serial.available( ) ) {
    passWord = Serial.readString();
    passWord.trim();                            // remove all the whitespace characters
    Serial.println( passWord );
    if ( passWord.equals( savedWord ) ) {
      Serial.println( "Awesome!" );
      pickNewWord( );
      Serial.print( "\nPlease guess the password? " );
    } else {
      Serial.print( "\nPlease try again? " );
    } // if equals
  } // if available

  delay( 100 );
} // loop( )
```

https://create.arduino.cc/editor/RRRduino/6d3ec3b8-ae9a-4ed1-adaf-98317cbb43cc/preview

The Arduino and Serial Monitor will now interact with you like this:



Using the online IDE to share and develop code:
The Arduino people created a website to allow you https://create.arduino.cc/ and without giving you an introduction to their interface, you can create your own login on their site and also click on the links below the code examples to go straight to the code online. Now you don't need the Arduino IDE installed on your PC anymore, just the plugin if you want to program an Arduino with an USB cable.

Your turn:
We would also like to hear from you, what do we show next and/or where do we go from here?

Speed

An afterthought about not enough RAM and Using Flash Memory instead:
When the following command is executed, the string to be sent out on the serial port is copied to RAM first. No problem for a few strings to be sent, but if your program is collecting hundreds of bytes in RAM, this might become trouble:

```
Serial.print("Write something on  the Serial Monitor");
```

The F() macro allows you to use the data straight from the flash memory and not waste any RAM:

```
Serial.println(F("This string will be stored in flash memory"));
```

ML

Winter 2018
photo by Riley Triggs

Local boy wants to "go to Washington"

(It's actually Soddy Daisy, Tennessee)

LSR Cowcatcher Division 1 Director Mike Mackey has thrown his hat into the ring for a position as At-Large North American Director for the NMRA. You should have gotten either an email or snail mail notification of the national election that runs until the end of March. Mike's bio statement as seen on the ballot:

As a longtime modeler and model railroader, I procrastinated joining the NMRA, once I did I quickly found out what I'd been missing. I've grown to know how important this organization is to cultivating the hobby and helping modelers grow to their highest potential. The relationships that I've made, and the opportunities that I have been afforded through my membership have truly enriched my life, and for that I'm sincerely grateful.

Based on that, I have embedded myself into this organization as thoroughly and quickly as I could. I've served on multiple committees for the Lone Star Region. I have filled roles, as needed on 2013, 2014 and 2015 regional conventions. I was offered and accepted the responsibility of serving as co-chairman for the 2016 convention.

Additionally, I have served as regional membership co-chair where I've enjoyed helping and assisting with membership drives and recruiting seminars at events around the region. I very much enjoy modeling competitions and have been fortunate enough to place and merit on multiple occasions. Those merit awards have allowed me complete my MMR certification (#573). I am working actively to receive all 11 of the certificates.

Serving as a leader in other organizations, I have consistently assisted achieving set goals. My resume includes: being an Eagle Scout, President of the Palestine Texas Jaycees, President of the Dallas/Fort Worth Marine Aquarium Society, Master Model Railroader, Region Membership Co-Chair, Director of Lone Star Region Division 1, 2016 Lone Star Super Regional Convention Chair, 2017 Lone Star Region President's Award for Outstanding Service and serving on the board of directors of three different model railroad clubs.

It is my desire to serve our organization even more, and for that reason, I would like to request your vote toward the office I am seeking. With your vote, I welcome the opportunity to serve this organization, providing strong leadership to the membership during the next term of office. ML

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Garland, TX

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Contest, Clinics, Layouts and some of your favorite Narrow Gauge Manufacturers await you and your friends! Registration $45.00 before February 1, 2018, $55.00 after February 1,2018. for more information: WWW.2018Sn-3Symposium.com
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or call 214-507-7779

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Room rate is $119.00 plus tax. Call 888-591-1234
code G-SN3S

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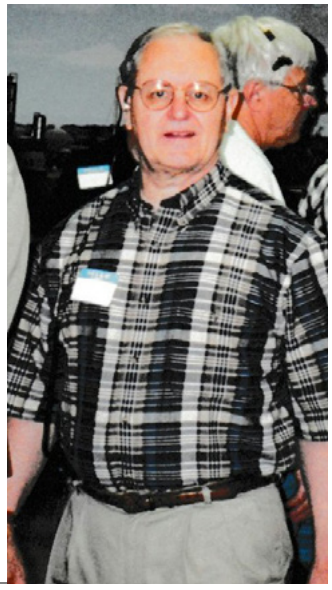
Chuck Hitchcock

By Richard Kamm

SUE LINE



"a soft spoken, elegant gentleman"

This time I want to share with you a "Giant in the Hobby" that has had an influence on me in a different way: Chuck Hitchcock, a soft spoken, elegant gentleman who lives in Kansas City, Kansas.

I recall the first time I went down the stairs into the basement in Chuck Hitchcock's home. Suddenly, just like Dorothy and her ruby slippers, I was in Kansas, specifically, Holliday, Kansas. There were several magnificent trains passing by my view. Immediately, I noticed they were not local or through freight trains, but rather sleek, beautiful passenger trains. They had the distinguished appearance of A-B-A units on the lead or a beautiful and graceful steamer. This was in about 1974, shortly after Chuck Hitchcock had begun the railroad in 1965. The details of that railroad were presented in the December 1983 issue of Model Railroader.

Prior to this visit, I had considered that passenger trains were made up, stored in a staging area, and periodically run to give the other engineers and the dispatcher something else to consider, but not on the Argentine Division! Chuck explained that passenger cars also had many services that were needed to keep them running. Dining cars had to be stocked at commissaries. Mail cars had to be loaded and unloaded. All cars had to be cleaned and they had to be arranged in a specific order for a specific train.

The stainless steel coaches did not just pull into the yard to await the next run. There were things to do and places they had to go. This was my introduction into the world of passenger cars movement. Chuck pointed out that he used the Official Railway Guide of 1949 to plan his consists and switching. Even the computer-generated paperwork had the look and feel of his year of operation. The date was the day's date, but the year was 1951. An operator visiting on November 12, 1991 would have paperwork dated November 12, 1951.

Chuck was a magnificent host and there was an elegant "crew lounge" area near the town of Morris, in which half way through the session there were refreshments and beverages supplied by the host. The normal crew was two yard operators for Argentine Yard (one freight and one passenger), a dispatcher, four mainline engineers and a local switcher in the town of Ottawa.

One of the interesting aspects of operation on this layout was that while the crews were "on break", Chuck Hitchcock would move all of the cars which were inbound at the massive grain elevator "A" so that they were now outbound as if they had been loaded during the break.

In the February 2007 issue of Model Railroader, Chuck Hitchcock revealed that the magnificent railroad I had viewed no longer existed and had been upgraded to a railroad with NO mainline, but plenty of operation. It was now the Argentine Industrial District Railway.

He felt that the old Argentine Division of the Santa Fe was about as finished as it could get and he wanted the challenge and excitement of building something new. The time was now 1960. The railroad was made up of six yards and industrial switching areas connected by "running tracks". All trackage was yard limits with a 20 mph speed limit. Holliday was gone, but the fun was not.

Today, the Sue Line runs in a post-1971 era with the recent loss of Amtrak service due to government cutbacks. Local leaders are making an attempt to get the service to return, but we'll see if that comes to fruition or not. With lessons learned from the Argentine Division and the Industrial District, the Sue Line now operates a massive yard operation with yard jobs that hand off lots of work to one another in a constant flow of traffic all the while being fed a steady diet of cars from mainline trains.

To keep operators coming for weekly sessions for years, you have to have different levels of challenges and this particular feature keeps those high volume switching guys happy. At the same time, there is plenty of action on the main where you can just enjoy watching a train roll by.

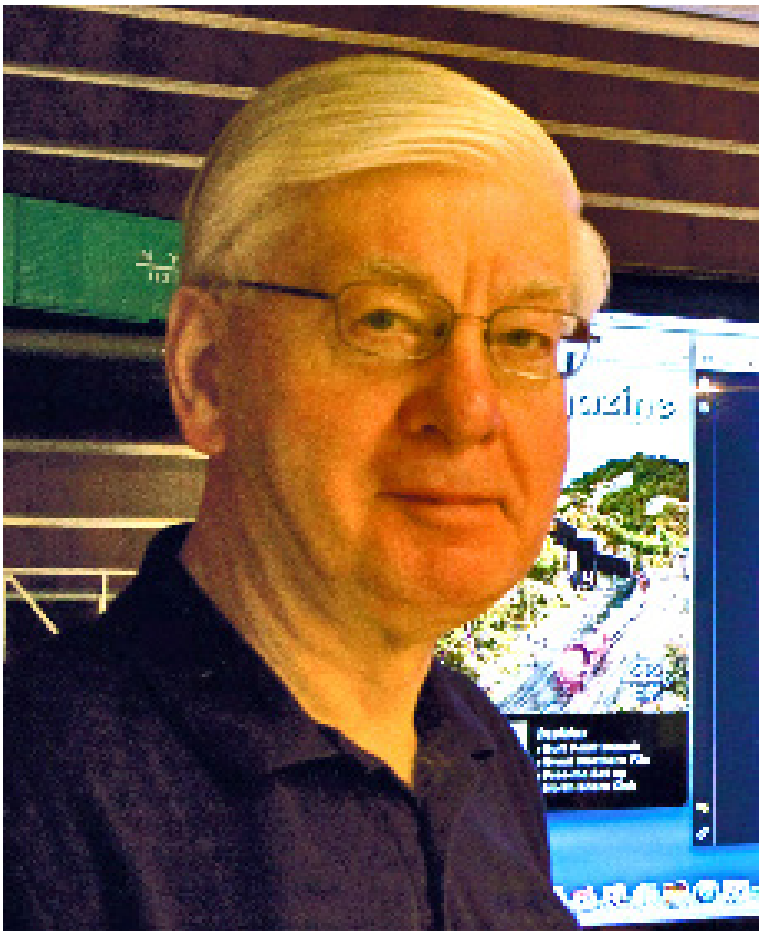
Chuck Hitchcock helped me by showing that attention to operating details and being a serving host are a components of what can bring a model railroad operating session to life.

I may not be in Kansas anymore, but the lessons learned from Hitchcock have helped me make the Sue Line home. And thanks to him, there's no place like it. ML

Tony Koester

By Richard Kamm

SUE LINE



This time I want to share with you a "Giant in the Hobby" that has had a great influence on me, Tony Koester, who lives with his wife, Judy, in New Jersey. After twenty years of editing telecommunication journals, Tony Koester took on more work with Kalmbach and subsequently became the editor of the annual *Model Railroad Planning*, as well as a contributing editor and the "Trains of Thought" columnist for *Model Railroader*. He has also written nine books for Kalmbach which may have found their way onto your shelf.

Tony Koester popularized the idea of proto-freelancing with his HO scale model railroad layout, the Allegheny Midland (AM), along with his friend Allen McClelland's Virginian & Ohio. Blending elements of Nickel Plate (NKP) equipment and operation with Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) structures and scenery, the AM would be the NKP's plausible West Virginia coal-hauler.

Tony believes that modeling the prototype is, in some ways, easier than doing freelance mainly because all the hard parts have already been done for you by the railroad that you're modeling. If you want to know what the track plans are, just look it up on the Internet. If you want to know what certain towns looked like, find some pictures of the area or, better yet, go visit the place and see for yourself. Take your own pictures of the landscape, the tracks, the trains, the yards, and the structures; bring them back to your railroad room at home and use them as reference photos.

Tony Koester notes that if you research the prototype operations, including scheduling patterns, what kind of trains they used (e.g., fast freight, through freight, passenger, etc.), how many trains traveled through the area in any one day during a era, this will further help you decide on your own train layout design and how your model railroad layout will operate.

One of the concepts I have accepted from Tony Koester is that if you model the prototype very closely, you know up front that you will never be able to replicate it exactly. That's a given. The first thing you almost certainly won't be able to replicate exactly is the scale distance from one point to another. Even in N scale, the scale distance of one mile would require 33 feet of layout space.

"...more than just a train of thought."

The second thing is that it would be very difficult to include everything in a model that is observable in the prototype, partly because of space considerations, and perhaps partly because there are some parts of the prototype that are just not that interesting or that you don't really want to spend time on. How do we get around this and still stick to the prototype plan well enough so that our model is a recognizable depiction of that railroad?

Selective Compression is one answer to this question. This basically involves compression of certain parts of the railroad that are perhaps less interesting than other parts, so that you can then focus on detailing the areas of the prototype that are more interesting.

For example, you could take the 200 miles that the prototype train travels between towns or other points of interest and compress that into say 3-4 feet of layout space. These compressed areas would not be neglected areas, just compressed; they would still convey a sense and flavor of the area that you're modeling by the way the scenery is done. These compressed scenes, of course, would not be "to scale" but they would make sense from a modeling standpoint. You could make your own scale so that you at least use your space proportionately to the real thing.

Tony Koester also believes that Layout Design Elements (LDE's), are the second answer to the question. These are the elements of the prototype that are recognizable visually and operationally that you do want to model in some detail. Your train layout design elements might include certain industries that are critical for the prototype you are modeling, or they might be certain towns, or even certain scenes, like the Horseshoe Curve on the Pennsylvania RR, that are or were important to the prototype.

Developing model railroads based on train layout design elements is a concept that Tony Koester proposed years ago, and that he explained in detail in his two excellent books on the subject, both of which I would highly recommend as you plan your train layout design.

On the Sue Line, distances between towns have been significantly compressed. Several structures have either been recreated in kit form or by backdrop painting to recreate specific buildings and businesses in the Shreveport area. Through a combination of layout design elements and selective compression, the linear design we incorporated in the 90's takes the operator from scene to scene traveling "miles" along the right-of-way of the proto - freelanced Sue Line railroad that at its heart has the KCS running through its veins if you look closely enough.

Whether it be the layout design side, the scenery aspect, or operating sessions, Tony Koester reminds all of us that we need to incorporate being a railfan into our hobby. With the internet filled with videos, web cams, and audio broadcasts, it is now easier than ever to railfan along your favorite right-of-way or railroad then transfer that to your layout.
Is it a yard that you most want to replicate? Maybe high speed double track mainline action? Is it all about that large industrial area with so many possibilities for your layout?

That's more than just a train of thought.

ML

Dick and Karen Bronson

By Richard Kamm

SUE LINE

We are all privileged to work with manufacturers, hobbyists and thought leaders in this hobby. It is small enough of a pursuit that we get to establish personal relationships with many people. We draw quite a bit of current information from them with little resistance.

Since beginning the conversion process of our signal system to DCC, I could not have gotten anywhere without the help of another giant in the hobby that I have never had the pleasure of meeting face-to-face. Allow me to introduce you to Dick Bronson and his wife Karen.

"... he has been the poster child for patient teacher."

In 2009, we decided to upgrade the electronics on the Sue Line. We were using a homemade signal and detection system which used Pascal computer language code. We designed, made and installed the detection and signal system and it worked as planned, but it was a one of a kind. When I began exploring the alternatives, I ran into Dick Bronson and R-R CirKits. Dick graciously spent time explaining the system to me and how it worked with JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface). Later he helped me with debugging as the installation progressed. Today we have a commercial signal and detection system which works with off-the-shelf components which was can easily add to or expand upon.

He is another individual who loves to share his knowledge with others. He has given numerous clinics at the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) conventions where he has discussed the basics of the JMRI system, CTC panels in JRMI and signal system functioning. He is also active in what promises to be the next leap forward for layouts: Layout Command Control. In fact, he already has some components available for the brand new standard. While he tends to refer to the R-R CirKits system, Dick also gives good coverage on alternative systems and how they can be used. Recently Dick Bronson is currently very active in the Layout Command Control (LCC) aspect of electronics.

I recall that recently we had a problem with our control system in that it responded slowly to commands. It was late in the afternoon 2 hours before our planned weekly operating sessions when the problem was discovered. The always friendly Karen Bronson answered the phone and when I explained our challenge, Dick immediately picked up on the line, patiently asked several questions and then talked us through a debugging session which led us to the cause of the problem. This was seven (7) years after I had purchased the products from R-R CirKits. This was the time of day that I could have gotten a recording. He did not have to help at that late hour of the day, but he did and that is just the kind of man Dick Bronson is.

Through my conversations, I have discovered that he has another aspect of the railroad hobby he enjoys. He likes to restore old passenger cars. I recall one day that I called Dick about a problem I was having with a detection/motor driver circuit and he spent about an hour telling me about a passenger car he and his wife Karen had found in an old barn and how they were refurbishing it to its past glory. I had a great time listening to him and, as always, he helped me to get the issue at hand resolved.

With the Sue Line, I have had the opportunity to share my experience and knowledge with others. In our haste to get things done, we should all be reminded that a little patience dealing with a problem someone else has in the hobby is a learning opportunity. Each time I have called Dick, he has been the poster child for patient teacher. If we want to foster the next generation, we need to be willing teachers. I try to put Bronson's attitude to work in my own hobby efforts. Teaching, learning, watching, and like the best teachers, help someone work through the problem without actually solving the problem for them.

Like a circuit board, whether it was made from scratch or purchased from a great manufacturer, the best teachers stay grounded in what they know while giving energy to so many different things around them. Their purpose is often to contribute to the greater good of convenience and information. It is appropriate that Dick is in the circuitry business far beyond the aspects of his technical knowledge.

As an example, Dick Bronson has contributed to over 300 operating sessions on the Sue Line in just the last 7 years alone providing fun filled evenings for operators. I'd estimate that is close to 4000 hours of operator time. For that, I unequivocally stand on the shoulders of this giant. ML

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JUNE 13-17, 2018 · AUSTIN, TEXAS

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Registration is now open! Printable form on the next page!

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LONE STAR NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION REGION

THE 2018 NMRA LONE STAR REGION CONVENTION

JUNE 13-17, 2018 ★ ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

REGISTRATION FORM

Mail registration or register online at austineagle.org by May 23 • Please print clearly and fill out both pages.

Name: *As shown on NMRA membership card*

Name: *As you would like it on your badge*

Mailing Address:

City: **State:** **Zip:**

Email Address:

Home Phone: **Cell Phone:**

NMRA Member? *(Circle one)* **Yes** **No** **Membership Number:** **Expiration Date:** *(mm/dd/yy)*

Home Division: **Home Region:** *(if not LSR)*

Not a member? Not a problem! You're invited to join us in June to see the benefits of membership first-hand!

Accompanying Registrants: *List names as preferred on badges; please include contact info for non-rail attendees*

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Name: **Email Address:** **Cell Phone:**

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- Many great **non-rail** activities including a visit to the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum *(extra fare)*, sightseeing, shopping, crafts, and more

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Phone: 512-341-7000 Fax: 512-341-7011

Ask for the Lone Star Region Convention rate CGLRMR

The convention rate is $90.00 per night for 1 king or 2 double bed room.
Rate includes free wi-fi and parking plus hot breakfast daily!
Make your reservations directly by phone with the hotel.

NOTE: The convention rate is available between June 11 and June 18 and must be booked by May 30, 2018.

SCENES FROM THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC

by Blake Bogs
superchief15@yahoo.com

Nearing the road crossing on the test run to Cumbres Pass

Entering Cumbres Pass

Bridge at Cumbres Pass

No. 489 preparing to turn on the wye

No. 489 backing through the snowshed

489
489
489

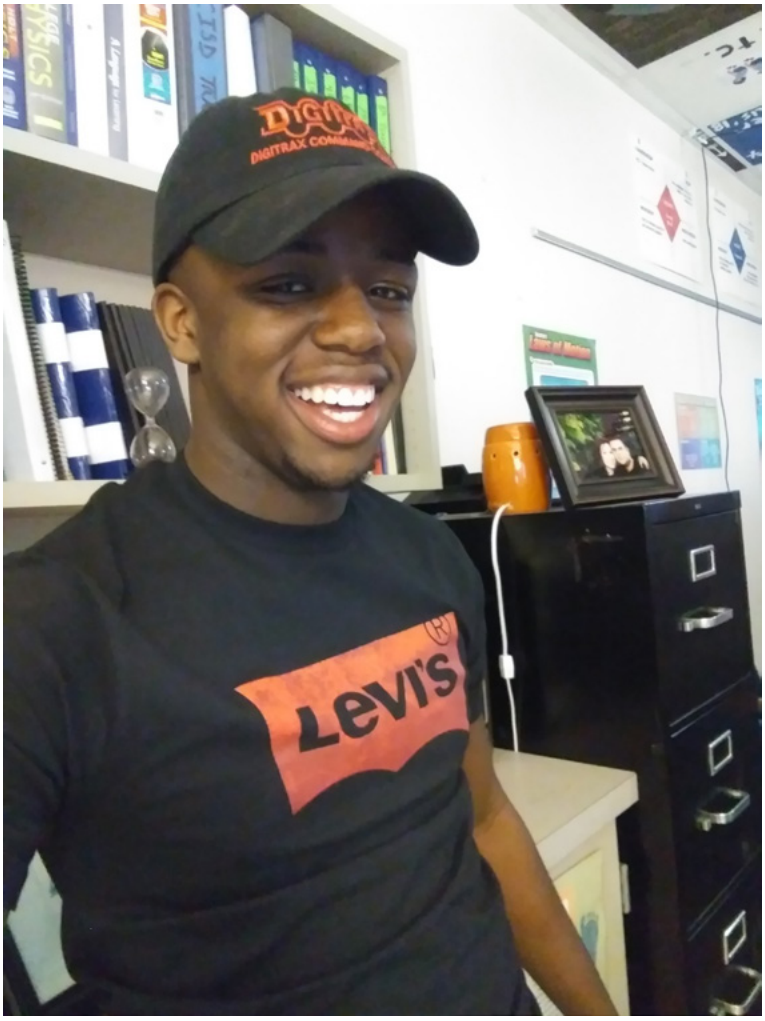
Approaching Chama, 489 is about to pass through another road crossing

After a successful test run from Chama to Cumbres Pass and back, 489 heads to the Chama wye to once again turn the locomotive.

Youth Award

Recipients receive a complimentary one-year membership to the NMRA

Lone Star Region 2018



I nominate Chris Johnson-Carr for the NMRA youth membership scholarship. Chris just celebrated his 18th birthday in September and was voted into membership at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club.

Chris is a young African-American whose single mom is raising four great children. Chris is incredibly courteous and crazy about all things trains. Our hobby desperately needs to embrace and retain youth like Chris.

Chris has been a blessing to our Club. He is in attendance every week, learning new modeling skills as we build our layout. He has also volunteered his time for the past two years at our annual Train Show. Not only has he participated, his mother has worked our concession stand both years as well.

The Johnson-Carrs are a great family and the TWMRC is proud to have Chris as one of our members. I hope that the Lone Star Region sees Chris's potential in expanding our hobby by granting him a youth membership scholarship.

Chris Johnson-Carr
Cowcatcher Division 1

Youth Award

Recipients receive a complimentary one-year membership to the NMRA

Lone Star Region 2018

Sam was born March 3, 2003, in Austin, and has been a member of NMRA since he was 3 yearsold – and proud of it. He has also been a member of OPSIG since he was 7, and has been to operating sessions from coast to coast.

He models in all scales, with his own layouts in N, HO (modules), On30, and G scale, plus contributing to our HO empire. His current passion is working inside loco shells – decoders, sound, lights, interior detail, and best of all rescuing nonworking engines from flea markets. He has recently been hired by a manufacturer to test decoder installations in Z scale locos to help them with product development.

Beyond model trains, his real love is prototype steam; we have a wonderful time together traveling the country chasing and riding steam trains, including many cab rides (he has more than me, of which I am envious; when there is only room for one rider, he wins). He also plays guitar and piano, is a 2nd degree black belt in TKD, and is a super student.

Sam Nicastro

CenTex Division 4

Youth Award

Recipients receive a complimentary one-year membership to the NMRA

Lone Star Region 2018

Hi, I am Toby Buxton. My father, Kevin Buxton, joined the All Points North Model Railroad Club in 2015, to allow me access to their layout and facilities. I wanted to be a part of APN in part to learn more about operations and how to properly maintain a layout, as well as electrical work.

I am still learning about trackwork and how to properly build benchwork. I participate in almost every operating session and go to the club as many times as I can. I am still learning how to operate the hump yard and some of the more complex operations on the APN layout.

I have been interested in trains for as long as I can remember. I started my first layout (N scale) when I was 10 years old. I am currently starting to construct my second layout, an N scale 7′ by 7′ tri-level Lshaped layout based on the Minneapolis–St. Paul area in my bedroom. I hope to have the staging level benchwork done by Christmas.

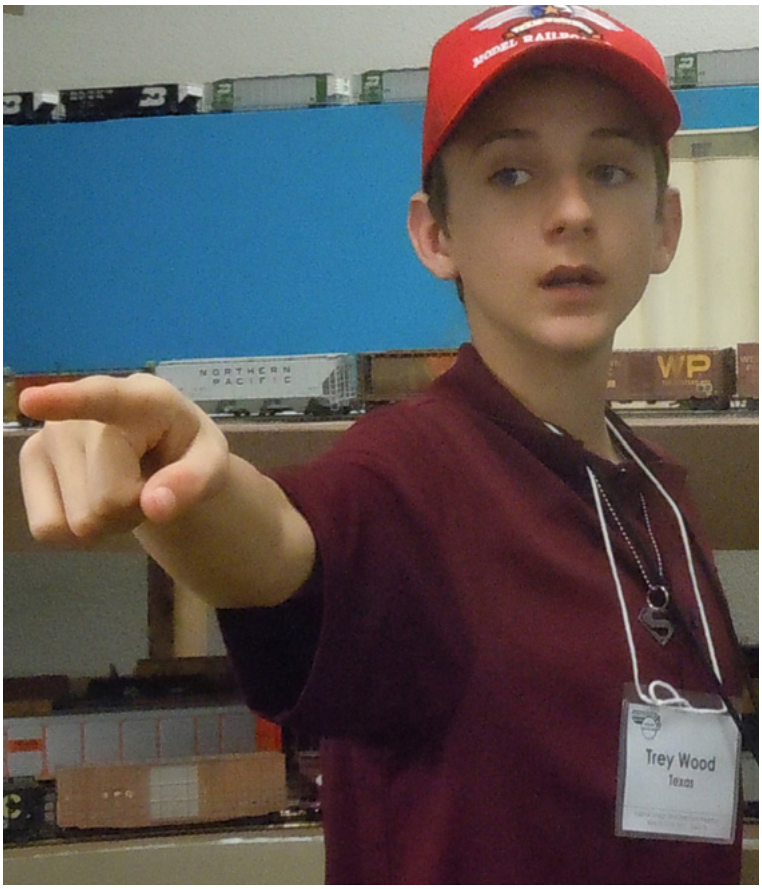
Toby Buxton

Texas Gulf Division 8

Youth Award

Recipients receive a complimentary one-year membership to the NMRA

Lone Star Region 2018



The Texas Western Model Railroad Club (TWMRC) would like to nominate Trey (Jack) Wood for the annual NMRA youth scholarship. Jack, the Grandson of the TWMRC COO, has been associated with the TWMRC since 2014 as a member of the "Youth in Model Railroading" group sponsored by the Texas Western MRC. Jack has been modeling in HO scale in the YMR and in the TWMRC.

Jack received his first trainset (Lionel O-27) for Christmas at the age of 4, and has continually showed an interest in model trains after he was exposed to the Texas Western MRC and it's membership. Jack joined the YMR group to learn the techniques involved in building and maintaining a model railroad, and to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of a like minded group of his peers.

Jack and his grandfather volunteered to build a 4' x 8' layout for a special needs youngster for Christmas in 2015.

Working with his grandfather and other TWMRC members, Jack has contributed to bringing the TWMRC layout trackwork up to the operating condition it is today.

Trey 'Jack' Wood

Cowcatcher Division 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE LONE STAR REGION BOARD MEETING
Round Rock, Texas – January 27, 2018
President Chuck Lind called the Annual Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM.
Roll call
All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:
Voting Board Members:
Position Elected Rep Proxy
Advisor – Steve Barkley – Jim Lemmond
Division 1 – Mike Mackey – Jeff Palmer
Division 4 – Peter Kazmir – Riley Triggs
Division 5 – Dave Lamberts – Jeff Palmer
Non-voting Board Members:
AP – Duane Richardson
Contest – Loren Neufeld
Events – Bill Dryden
Photography – Dave Lamberts
Non-Rail – Virginia Freitag
Open Chairs:
Membership –
Guests in attendance:
Don Winn
Tom Marsh
Megan Bradley
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Don Kimmell provided a motion and Donna Orr seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the June 7, 2017 Annual Board of Directors meeting published in the 2017 Summer issue of The Marker Lamp - designated as 2018-01-27 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports
President Chuck Lind

Cannot believe it has been 6 months since our convention in June. The Houston convention committee did a great job of giving us a convention that would keep us busy from the many clinics to the different operating sessions.

Even with all of the options we may have a slight loss or just break even. It seems like folks don't want to travel. Over half of those attending were from the host region, this is a trend we have seen over the past few conventions. This is a problem that we are going to have to address. Marc is looking at different venues and maybe it is time to shorten the convention. When I joined the NMRA back it the dark ages the LSR Convention started at 1PM on Friday, which allowed you to only have to take off work 1 day and make it to the convention. The other big

convention expense is the food in the hotel about $7,500.00 to get the room rate down. We need to think out of the box!

Division 8 has just finished the November (and 1st weekend December) layout tours. This year we had a few less layouts open partly due the Harvey. I have not heard how the overall attendance was but I had just over 100 people come through my layout over the 2 days I was open. One of the things I enjoy during these open houses is having my operators hand the throttle to some of the youngsters. We tell them where the bell and whistle are and let them run, I saw this many years ago at Gil's and believe we need to keep it up. The open house is another great way to get work done on your layout, we all need a deadline.

Austin has stepped up to host the convention in 2018 and with it being a few years since we have been there and having at the same great facility it should be a very good convention. Please encourage the members in your Division to attend.
Marc is looking for someone to step up and host the 2019 convention. We need to have this locked in at the January Board meeting.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy Healthy New Year.

Vice-President Bob Barnett

2017 has been a busy year for the LSR and especially in my neck of the woods. During the Summer the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club and Division 8 hosted the Lone Star Region Convention. Our Education and outreach activities have included presenting clinics and programs in DIVISIONS 1, 3, 5 and 8, and undoubtedly some of which I am not aware. More on the content and presenters is given in Education Chairs report

In addition to our annual convention members of the LSR have hosted or helped to host train shows in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Temple and others other locations over the past year. The San Jacinto Club in Houston just finished up the annual Fall Layout Tour in early December which included approximately 50 layouts from Z-scale to 1 ½" scale in an area ranging from Katy east to Beaumont and from College Station south to Galveston, Sugar Land and Pearland.

From our annual convention, to Division Monthly meetings, to train shows and regional layout tours, model railroad is alive and doing well around the Lone Star Region.

Treasurer Gert Muller

We received a huge donation from Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Delattre, with the intention to help model railroaders that are involved in our defense forces. A big " Thank You " to the Delattres and also to those keeping us safe!
Speed.

Third Fiscal Quarter of 2017/2018 :
Beginning Balances (10/31/2017)
LSR Unrestricted Accounts $28,467.86
Morgan Stanley CD Fund $10,036.73
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth $38,504.59
(Not included in Total LSR Net Worth: Funds for the Bob Clark Award:
$570, Division 2, 5 and 7 Rebate Funds: $225)
LSR Proceeds
Morgan Stanley CD Fund Interest $ 62.21

Delattre donation $ 1500.00
NMRA Rebate $ 931.00
Convention Proceeds $ 268.12
Total Proceeds $ 2761.33
LSR Disbursements
Rebates paid to Divisions $ 461.00
Division 5 Prior Disbursement $ 36.50
Total Disbursements $ 497.50
Net Proceeds-Disbursements $ 2263.83
Ending Balances (1/31/2018)
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total $29,141.48
Morgan Stanley CD Fund $10,098.94
Total LSR Net Worth $39,240.42
(Not included in Total LSR Net Worth: Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $570, Contest Division 2 and 7 Rebate Funds: $253, and the Delattre Fund of $1500)

Secretary Jeff Palmer

Since our June 7, 2017 BOD meeting, the LSR Secretary is working with the Nomination Chair, Blake Bogs, to pull together the ballot information for the March 2018 election.

The Secretary has provided the LSR President with the "recertification" information for the NMRA insurance. The NMRA has been updated with current LSR officer information as has been the state of Texas.

Currently the secretary is trying to pull together the various reports from the other LSR Officers and Chairs in preparation of the January 27, 2018 BOD meeting in Round Rock. The cooperation of the officers and chairs would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the 2018 convention. Reviewing the 2018 website, I'm really looking forward to a number of clinics, and touring some of the fantastic layouts - https://austineagle.org/.

We still do not have a 2019 convention committee.

As covered in the Webchair Report, the LSR Website has been very stable.

One last note, please remember in your reporting that education is our prime directive and to hi-lite it where possible in your reporting.

Advisor Steve Barkley

No Report

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Mike Mackey reported that:

The first seven months of this term have seen Division 1 rebound to be a division on the verge of being one of the best in our region. In this short period of time the division has be able to accomplish the following:

1. Establish a Board of Directors
2. Obtain its 501c3 designation from the IRS
3. Start holding monthly meetings with and average attendance of 25-40
4. Establish several "make and take" clinics
5. Developed and obtained signage for a Division 1 NMRA booth
6. Built a Division 1 test track for use at train shows

7. Helped conduct three train show NMRA recruiting booths
8. Establish a Hurricane Relief Fund
9. Encourage division members to achieve over 15 Achievement Program certificates on their road to become Master Model Railroaders
Stay tuned for what the future holds!

Division 2 Director Rod Fredericks reported:

Recovery of the model railroading community from the Baton Rouge area flooding of August, 2016 has neared completion over the past half year. My club, the Mid-South Model Railroad Club had 27 inches of water inside the building, not enough to reach the bottom of the layout, but high enough to submerge the DCC and signaling systems, and storage cabinets under the layout containing supplies, tools and engines and rolling stock (club property as well as members' personal property).

Also the interior walls had to be opened and dried, then replaced, and the flooring ripped out, cleaned and replaced. Then it was on to replacing all of the electronics under the layout, signaling and dcc systems, as well as some wiring. Needless to say, it was a long and tedious all hands effort. But the doors are open now and the trains are running!

I would like to add, that without the fire and casualty insurance policy offered by the NMRA and bought by the Mid-South, we would never have been able to rebuild. What a bargain the NMRA provides. The final settlement was in excess of $10,000. (Thanks Keith!)

However, the future of the Mid-South is still in question. As a result of the flooding the original owners were forced to sell the building. The deal we had with them was rent free. The new owner wishes us to stay, but this is a business investment for him, and there is the question of being able to meet his rent. Surely not at the pre-flood membership number, but so far we have increased membership substantially. And we must continue to do so.

A number of other model railroaders experienced home flooding and three layouts were damaged to various extents. But Jim Loftland's Tall Timber home layout is again alive and well. He has finished the refurbishments and the trains are running again.

Activity at the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club north of the city in Jackson, LA, continues with numerous events hosted during the holiday season as well as the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, LA. These events continue to receive large turnouts, as did one hosted at the Mid-South. This latter event saw some 1400 visitors walk through our doors.

Division 3 Director Donna Orr reported that:

Here we are at the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. We have had our monthly meetings in 2017 and decided to change things up for 2018. Many of our clinics have been education/power point sessions. But for 2018 we are going to be having more make and take clinics. We have 5 months of make and take clinics planned so far for 2018. And planning for more.

Here is what has been happening at the end of 2017.

Novembers' educational clinic was "Urban Archaeology" presented by Duane Richardson. You should have been there to here and see what Duane "dug up". We also had some ideas on signs for our model railroads. (just to see if anyone

notices)

And then in December, we had our annual Christmas Party. Weather was better this year than last. We all had a great time, just a Very Merry Christmas Party of the old fashion kind.

And then just to keep us going with something to do after Christmas, Craig Tribuzi had a "hands on" clinic using casting resin and geodesic foam to cast rocks.

Our division has been doing well at acquiring new members, but not always the best at keeping members or keeping them interested. So we have started a mentoring program. This great idea was brought to the Division by Dennis Rice. The program has several categories where members can mentor new members. There are even those that have volunteered to mentor new members and have asked for mentorship themselves on other areas that they are interested in. Dennis Rice is our membership chairman that is leading this program. Anyone interested in the details can contact Dennis or myself about this program.
I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and started out with a Happy New Year.

Division 4 Director Peter Kazmir reported:

It has been an exciting and busy several months since our report for the 2017 annual meeting.

We had three Division meetups in July, September, and November. Our meetups, which are held at the Austin Northwest Rec Center, typically consist of a clinic or two, show and tell, social time, "Deal or Duds" (a door prize giveaway), and a layout tour. We also have some educational material and displays in a beginner's corner as well as information describing the benefits of NMRA membership and the AP program. Through these meetups, we have added several members to our Division this year.

At the July meetup, Joel Davidson gave a great clinic about the use of LEDs in Model Railroading. Afterwards, we toured Tom Foreman's HO scale layout. At the September meetup, Peter Kazmir presented the second in a series of presentations about operations, focused on traffic control systems. Afterwards, we toured Wayne Jones home layouts. Finally, at the November meetup, we took advantage of an NMRA benefit by watching a video of Stephen Priest's clinic from the 2017 National Convention and we toured Jack Merkel's excellent HO scale Lone Star & Santa Fe. Jack is also presenting a series of micro-clinics about the benefits of the NMRA at different meetups.

Pictures and detailed recaps from each meetup, as well as pictures and information about these and other layouts across our Division, are posted on our website, centexnmra.org. The site also hosts a discussion board open to the public. We advertise our meetups primarily via flyers at our local hobby shops and trains shows. Our meetings are usually attended by about 40-50 people, including NMRA members and guests (our meetings are free and open to the public).

The annual Temple Train Show was hosted by the Centra-Mod club in September and it was a great success like every year. The Division hosted a booth at the show and attracted several new members to the NMRA.
As we look forward to the coming year, the Division will be a busy place. After a successful first year, the Austin Area Train Show will be returning May 5 and 6 in Taylor. Going forward, the new Austin Model Railway Society, a 100% NMRA Member HO Scale club in the area, will be hosting the train show. The Division is helping the AMRS to get started with the show.

But the most exiting event coming up is the Austin Eagle, the 2018 LSR NMRA Convention, which will be held in Round Rock (a suburb of Austin) June 13-17. The Division is hosting this event, which will include all the usual goodies – lots of quality clinics, local prototype tours (of the Austin Steam Train facilities and the Capital Metro Dispatching and Maintenance Center), a huge silent auction, a great contest, door prizes, and lots of great non-rail events as well! We're also pleased to announce that Trevor Marshall will be our banquet speaker and guest clinician. Trevor is a long-time model railroader, host of the Model Railway Show and TrainMasters.TV, and frequent contributor to Railroad Model Craftsman and Model Railroader. We are very excited to have him join us, and we hope you all can join us this summer as well!

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts reported:

Last month I was honored and humbled by being awarded the NMRA's Presidents's award. The plaque reads ". . . . for service to the division in model railroading . . . . in grateful appreciation for your contribution of time and talent to your local division of the lone star region." I am sure there are many members of the division at least as worthy as I. Thanks to Charlie Getz and the NMRA.

We had our Chinese Christmas gift exchange last month. Everyone in the room who brought a gift draws a number. Whoever draws number one picks a gift from the "gift table." Whoever has number two may either steal the gift from number one, or go to the "gift table." Ditto for number three. Our club has been doing this for years. Lots of fun.

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Division 6 Kevin Bergeman reported:

No Report

Don Winn (Division Director Elect) reported:

Division 6 – an ad hoc report from the membership

1. Secured a table at the SAMRA train show on February 24-25.
2. Secured a 3-table booth for the next New Braunfels Train Show on April 14-15, free of charge. We will be set up in the main hallway with some walk-up clinics and membership drive. The plan is for Divisions 4 and 6 to share the booth duty and to pull in members for both divisions.
3. Initiated a discussion among Division 6 members who would like to see more activity in the division.
4. Plans to start up Division 6 meetings on a bi-monthly schedule, to be offset from the Division 4 meetings to allow and encourage crossparticipation. Will need to set a date and place for the first meeting before the 2 shows, so that prospective members (and current members) can be encouraged to attend. Tentatively scheduled for 10:00 on April 28th. Location TBD.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported:

Division Seven (7) membership has held steady over the previous six months. We have not had any division-wide meetings since last summer. In the past, division membership would gather at one of our "local" train shows and compare notes, etc. Unfortunately, the lack of any events in this area, has prevented our "informal" gatherings.

Had one Boy Scout presentation, in Junction City, LA/AR, it straddles the state/parish lines in North-Central Louisiana, just northwest of Rum Center. A number of division members manned a daylong educational/Operation Lifesaver booth at a number of local civic events throughout East Texas and North Louisiana, these included: a state (LA) sponsored Transportation Conference; the Minden Historical Society's Heritage Event; and "Bonnie and Clyde Days" in Arcadia.

Division 8 Director Jim Lemmond reported:

Division 8 survived the recent Hurricane Harvey with minor damage to home layouts. We wish to give many thanks to LSR Division 1 for the financial help extended to a Division 8 member to help repair the member's home that was damaged in the hurricane. Thank you Mike Mackey for seeing this through. The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club held another successful Fall Layout Tour during November of 2017. The tour was held on weekends throughout November and part of December.

Division 8 under the leadership of President Ray Byer, has hosted monthly handson clinics throughout 2017, with increasing attendance. The Division is planning a continuation of clinics on a monthly basis in 2018.

The Division has nominated Toby Buxton from the All Points North Railroad Club in Conroe as its nominee for the Lone Star Region Youth Award.

Director-At-Large Marc LaChey reported:

More often than I'd like to admit, I find myself paralyzed with a project for my home layout. Early in the fall, I was at that point with the oil depot facility that I wanted on my layout. So what did I do? I prepared a clinic for the October Division 3 meeting on building an oil depot facility.
I created power point presentation that started with photos that I had captured the last several years during trips to Colorado. I wanted folks to see the various prototypes that I was attempting to model. Then I added a few photos showing images of building mock ups staged on the layout. I went into detail about how I used manila folders as card stock to build the mock ups.

Then I brought the building mockups to the clinic so folks could see them. And toward the end of the presentation, I said to the group, what would you do? This generated dialogue with the attendees that allowed us to brainstorm as a group how to proceed with the project. We talked about maintaining appropriate scale relative to already completed buildings adjacent to the new oil depot. And that got us off onto a discussion about how tall and wide the oil depot should be so as to not overwhelm the Mission Church which sits to the side of the scene and the Produce Warehouse which sits on the other side of the track behind the oil depot. By the end of the clinic, the feedback from the group helped me pass my paralysis so that I was able to continue on with the project.

So what is my point? You don't have to be an expert on a topic to prepare a clinic to present at a club, at Division or regional meeting.

Speaking of meetings, I wish to thank the Lone Star Region for sponsoring the 2018 Sn3 Symposium. The Symposium will be held in Garland, Texas April 5th-7th, 2018. While the Symposium is directed at those modeling narrow gauge in S scale, you don't have to be an Sn3 modeler to get something out of attending a specialty event like the Sn3 Symposium. Presently, we are offering 10 classroom style clinics and two make and take style clinics. There will be vendors that cater

to narrow gauge modelers along with tours to see selected home layouts. Consider this a smaller version of the National Narrow Gauge Convention with a focus on Sn3. The best part, the event is being held right in your own back yard. Go to www.2018Sn3Symposium.com for details. All LSR/NMRA members are welcome to register and attend.

Finally, if you haven't registered for the 2018 LSR Regional Convention, the Austin Eagle scheduled for June 13th-17th, 2018, I encourage you to do so. The featured speaker is Trevor Marshall. Trevor is regularly featured on TrainMasterTV.

Director-At-Large Blake Bogs reported:

It has been a successful six months for my Director at Large Position.
Marker Lamp- My Director at Large/nomination update was sent in the Winter Issue. I sent in various photos; one of which was used for the cover.
Nomination- See Report. I am also always on the look-out for new candidates. Please contact me if you wish to run.

Layout Tours- I visited several of the layouts that were on tour. We had an amazing participation this year.
Additionally, my dad and I both had our layouts open this year. I helped with both.
Various meetings visited in 2017- San Jacinto Club- in Division 8
-Division 4 Meeting
Clinics Given- Colorado 2017 at Petticoat Junction in Spring, TX.

Director-At-Large Riley Triggs reported:

Members of the CenTex Division have formed a new 100% NMRA club, the Austin Model Railway Society and we have received 501 (c) 3 status for our organization with the mission to educate the public about railroad activities in general and specifically the history of the railroads in around Central Texas. Bylaws have been adopted, membership dues set and paid, and officers elected. Membership is open to anyone.

Our first activity is to build a modular layout based on Austin, Round Rock and Taylor. We have created a module standard that is being produced by David Petersen of Masterpiece Modules in Austin that allows for prototype operations and train show display running.
http://www.masterpiecemodules.com/contact.php

The first phase of basic module construction is complete, and we will be turning our attention towards displaying the modules as part of our education mission of railroad history in and around Austin, Tx.

The Austin Area Train Show will be in Taylor, Tx again the first weekend in May in coordination with Taylor's Blackland Prairie Days.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Duane Richardson reported:
Since June we have add the following AP Certs presented:
Bob Burnett - Civil
Pete Leach - Author
Don Hand - Author
Tom Greco - Author
David Griffith - Volunteer

Don Formanek - Volunteer
Michael Ross - Scenery
John Garfield - Scenery, Volunteer, Civil
Leo Palitti - Volunteer, Scenery, Structures
Lorrie Palitti - Volunteer, Scenery, Structures
No expenses to report.
EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!
MMR 605 has been announced by the NMRA
Bob Barnett – MMR #605

Contest Chair Loren Neufeld reported:
1. Contest awards of the same style as the past several years are currently in production.
2. Special Contest will be "Peanut Butter Lid" – similar contest was done once previously in 2008, and was well received (see below).

Special Contest

Your Contest Chairman, with suggestions from the "Peanut Gallery", has dug through a pile of old peanut shells and come up with a slightly nutty idea for this year's "Special Contest"!

The 2018 contest will be to build ANYTHING! There's just one catch - It must be built on a peanut butter jar lid (the 3 1/2" size). You can build whatever you want in any scale you want, but it must fit on the lid and not hang over the sides. (If you really wanna show off, you can even build it INSIDE the jar, but please take the peanut butter out first!) Engines, cars, structures, dioramas, etc., all are eligible. It can be as tall as you want (limited by the ceiling height in the contest room.) but nothing can stick out past the sides of the lid. We have a cylinder which we will slide over the model to make sure it conforms to the rules. For those in the larger scales, this will be a real challenge. You Z scalers might be able to build a layout!

Those are the basic rules, and the entries will be judged the same as other models, using the NMRA scoring and LSR rules. It can be in any category, so please let us know when you are entering that it is also in the "Special Contest".
Like last year, special awards will be presented to the First, Second and Third Place winners based on the highest scoring models from all categories. You have plenty of time for planning and building, so let's fill the contest room again. If you have any questions call me at 713-962-4035, or email me at Lorenmr@aol.com.

See you at the convention!

Convention Chair Marc LaChey reported:

Since my report to the LSR Board at the 2017 Annual meeting, Chuck Lind and I have had conversations with representatives from Divisions 2,7 & 8. In addition, we have explored a joint convention with the Mid Continent and Southeastern Region. As of this writing, we have not found an LSR Division or Club agreeable to hosting a convention in 2019. In our conversations with the Divisions or Clubs, we have expressed openness to an abbreviated event. Still, we have yet to find a Division or Club raising their hand. Unfortunately, a joint regional convention does not seem possible for 2019.

My prior report detailed ideas on an abbreviated event focused on clinics and a

limited schedule. I refer you to that prior report for details.
Therefore, I will ask the LSR Secretary, Jeff Palmer, to place motion on the agenda for the winter, 2018 Board Meeting to forgo a convention in 2019.

Historian Chair Bob Barnett – No Report.

Nominating Chair Blake Bogs reported:

Election will take place March 1,2018- March 31, 2018
Candidates in the Upcoming Election:
Vice President- Ray Byer
Secretary- Jeff Palmer
Division 2- Ken Mason
Division 4-Bob Thiele
Division 6-Don Winn
Division 8- Jim Lemmond
Director At Large-
Blake Bogs
Marc LaChey
Phil Stewart
Riley Triggs

Non-Rail Virginia Feritag not present – No Report.

Publications Chair Riley Triggs reported:
Report of year's activities

The emphasis continues to be on the regular column contributors providing a strong base of material. Gert "Speed" Muller, Blake Bogs, Peter Kazmir and Duane Richardson are doing a tremendous job at producing interesting, informative and educational material for our membership.
I would like to bring focus on featuring layouts of region members, as well as contest and AP recognition. The contest and AP recognition have had an increased presence in the ML, and the interest in layout features is growing. I will need to take a more active role in producing the layout content.
Metrics

Jeff Palmer has provided some metrics for the consumption of the Marker Lamp. He indicates that 65% of 1100 members download the Marker Lamp from the email he sends out at publication time. Of that total, 53.4% download during the initial
announcement and another 10.7% over the balance of the month.
Areas to address

Advertising in Pike and Dealer ads still need attention. There has been some interest in upgrading ads to color, but no new pike nor dealers are participating. There has been no particular effort to acquire new ads this year, but this is an ongoing situation.
Long term projects update

Major projects are on hold to gather time and resources to accomplish them.

Website Chair Jeff Palmer reported that:

Since we were hacked a year ago, our new site has functioned well. A new feature has been added to the Main Menu to support the Youth Award program. Two things I am considering adding to the web site is a Vendors option and a Sponsors option. My thought was this:

Vendors – This would be a quick way of finding major vendor sites

Sponsors – This would be the location the different division could advertise there sponsors.

Any thoughts? Is there something else that need to be added to the website?

The election time is just around the corner and activity on the election website www.geekwithtrains.com is picking up. I will be updating the website as information is feed to me by Blake Bogs.

I have been working on the Sn3 Symposium website http://www.2018sn3symposium.com/ . Progress has been made in making the site available and up to date. I've also setup the host definitions for the Division 3 website http://trinityriverdivision.com/. More work is needed but the foot print has been setup.

As to the Officer's Page, the security methodology has changed on how to secure site content, and I'm still in the process of learning how to work with the new approach. Not wanting to rock the boat so to speak, I have done very little to move this process forward. After all of the issues late last year, I just wanted stability.

Over the past 6 months, 8 LSR emailings have gone out to support the upcoming, Harvey Disaster Relief, and other LSR related business. As we go forward, the emailings for the 2018 Convention should add to the volume.

Also busy making reports, motions and other information available online.

Youth Chair, Jim Lemmond reported:

Nominees for the Lone Star Region Youth Awards:
LSR Board of Director's Youth Award:
Christian Johnson-Carr (18) – LSR Division 1
LSR Division 1 Youth Award:
Trey (Jack) Wood (13)
LSR Division 2 Youth Award:
N/A
LSR Division 3 Youth Award:
N/A
LSR Division 4 Youth Award:
Sam Nicastro (15)
LSR Division 5 Youth Award:
N/A
LSR Division 6 Youth Award:
N/A
LSR Division 7 Youth Award:
N/A
LSR Division 8 Youth Award:
Toby Buxton (17)

Education Chair, Bob Barnett reports:

This has been a busy year in the Lone Star Region. Region members presented clinics and made presentations at the Lone Star Region Convention in Houston, the Monthly Division meetings in Divisions 1, 3, and 8 and at the monthly San

Jacinto Model Railroad Club Meetings.

A listing of the presentation is shown below:
2017 Lone Star Region Convention:
1. Forestry 101 -Tree Building Clinic – Steve Nelson: Steve Nelson models the MKT in the Booneville, Missouri area. His layout includes some of the most realistic old oaks ever modeled. Steve has put together a comprehensive clinic on modeling trees using a variety of techniques and materials along with an excellent handout. Steve hails from Cedar Creek near Austin and is our western-most forestry expert presenting tree clinic at the 2017 LSR.
2. Forestry 201 - Trees for the High Country – Rod Fredericks – Rod models the narrow gauge in Colorado and has assembled an excellent presentation on modeling the spruce, firs and aspens common to that region. Rod hails from Baton Rouge and is our eastern-most tree expert (who models the trees of the West).
3. Forestry 455 – Sawmills and Lumber Industry of Southeast Texas – Chuck Lind – Well known lumber modeler Chuck Lind will discuss the lumber harvesting and milling of southeast Texas and its importance to the area railroads.
4. David Currey – Operation on the Brownie in the late 1970's early 1980's: Dave was a brakemen running on the Brownie in the late MoPac/early UP era. He gives a first-hand account of operating on the line south of Houston where many of the nation's largest chemical plants are located. He will discuss interchange with the various lines that crossed the Brownie in the Corpus Christi/ Port Aransas area.
5. Al Partlow - Modeling the T&NO Hearne Sub – An Update: The Texas & New Orleans Hearne Sub is a 20' x 38' HO scale model railroad that depicts operations on the T&NO Dallas and Austin Divisions in the early 1950s. The railroad includes the major terminal at Houston, including Houston Grand Central Station, as well as the towns of Hockley, Hempstead, Navasota and Hearne. A major classification yard is featured at Hearne. The Austin Sub leaves the mainline at Hempstead for Austin and the Texas Hill Country. Equipment includes both steam and first generation diesels, typical passenger consists, and era specific freight cars and cabooses. Signature structures include the unique Hearne Passenger Depot, the Hempstead Depot and the large rice dryer at Hockley.
6. Al Partlow – Houston Railroads: Houston Railroads – Post War to Present: This presentation includes a detailed look at the railroads that served Houston from the years following World War II to present times. Photos of railroad action in the Houston area from numerous photographers and collections include the Santa Fe, Burlington Northern, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Missouri Pacific, Missouri Kansas & Texas, Fort Worth & Denver, Rock Island, Texas & New Orleans/Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Kansas City Southern, Houston Belt & Terminal and the Port Terminal railroads.
7. Steve Sandifer - T&P Steam in the 1940's: the Photography of William Davis Sandifer: Bill Sandifer was a T&P fan all of his life (1925-2005). His best childhood friend was Ed Robinson whose photos of the T&P have often been published, but Sandifer kept his photos for

private use. Steve Sandifer, MMR, will show a collection of never-beforeseen photos of T&P steam shot primarily around Marshall, Texarkana, Shreveport, and Bunkie.
8. Phil Stewart –Louisiana Plantation Railroads 1895-1970 – Seventy Five Years along the Sugar Cane Route: Phil will present over 100 vintage phots of narrow gauge locomotives and rolling stock that operated on the 150 plantations that utilized railroads in the early 20th Century. He will discuss the history, operations, scenery, and structures of the Louisiana sugar country that extend from Lafayette to New Orleans along the Mississippi. Phil is currently building a sugar cane railroad and will discuss operations and unique scenery challenges.
9. Greg Johnson – Modeling Industrial Parks and Districts of the Houston area: Greg will discuss the operation and modeling of Houston area industrial districts with particular emphasis on the Santa Fe Industrial District along Mykawa Road. Greg is meticulous in his research and planning and has built several excellent layouts. Come see the latest of his projects.
10. Greg Johnson - Designing your own laser-engraved structures: Greg once built a large industrial layout featuring steel mills, foundries and heavy smoke stack industries. Come see his latest efforts at modeling industries more common in the industrial south west.
11. George Werner – 70 Years of Railfanning Around Houston: Noted Texas Rail Historian and Houstonian George Werner will present favorite shots from the Forties, Fifties and Sixties taken by George of the Houston and Gulf Coast rail scene. Many of George's photographs have found their way into railroad publication over the last several years. This is an opportunity to see vintage and rare photographs with commentary from the photographer.
12. Bob Barnett – Modeling the Cotton Industry in Texas: Houston was founded as the head of Navigation on Buffalo Bayou as a cotton port. Galveston was the second largest cotton port in the South. Before the Spindletop gusher, Cotton was Houston's game. Bob will discuss the cotton industry in Texas from planting, harvest, ginning, the gin building, compresses, shipping to the ports and overseas shipping.

Division 1 Meeting Programs
1. May 2017- Photographing the Prototype – by Ken Fitzgerald – Official photographer for the Union Pacific, KCS, BNSF and Fort Worth Western.
2. July 2017 – Urban Archeology – by Duane Richardson.
3. August 2017 – Scratchbuilding a Storage Tank – by Leo and Lorie Palitti.
4. September 2017 - Scratchbuilding a Pump House for your Storage Tank – by Leo and Lorie Palitti.
5. October 2017 – Model Railroading 101 – by Mike Mackey.
6. December 2017 – Christmas Party.

Division 3 Meeting Programs
1. Making a Static Grass Applicator - by - Craig Tribuzi.
2. A weathering clinic "if it ain't dirty, it ain't done - by - Duane

Richardson
3. Painting Locomotives – by - Charles Goodrich
4. A DCC Overview - by -Thomas Stephens
5. How to use a "Bullfrog" juicer – by - Bill Huebner - (a small electronic circuit that will automatically switch polarity of the frog in a turnout).
6. How to program your DCC locomotive using JMRI – by - Thomas Stephens
7. How do you fit more Stuff onto a small layout – by - Marc LaChey
8. Update and restore that old rolling stock - by – Craig Stephens - Setting up your railroad for operations,
9. Urban Archaeology – by - Duane Richardson.
10. Using Geodesic foam to build rocks/mountains - by - Craig Tribuzi.

Division 8 Meeting Programs

1. March 11, 2017 – Building Trees for your Layout – by Ray Byer: Ray will discuss and demonstrate his tree flocking machine that adds realism to your scratch-built trees. Ray scratch his tree flocking rig from readily available components at a reasonable cost.
2. April 8, 2017 –Building Realistic Track work – by Ray Byer: Considerations for building realistic and functional track work, switches and wiring.
3. May 13, 2017 – Tuning Your Rolling Stock for Best Performance by Jeff Hamilton and Mark Couvillion: Jeff and Mark will conduct a hands-on clinics for setting up and fine tuning cars for best performance including wheel, truack, couples and proper weighting of cars.
4. July 8, 2017 -– Make and Take Clinic –Part I: Chuck Lind, MMR and Loren Neufeld, MMR – Two MMR's will present a hand-on presentation for building and weathering a Laser cut kit for a hand car shed. They will discuss construction techniqies including materials, tools, finishing and weathering.
5. August 12, 2017 – Make and Take Clinic –Part II: Chuck Lind, MMR and Loren Neufeld, MMR – The presenters continue their hands-on clinic for building a small laser cut structure including finish and weathering.
6. September 7, 2017: LED's and Model Railroading: Cancelled Due to Hurricane Harvey
7. December 9, 2017: LED's in Model Railroading – by Jeff Hamilton and Mark Couvillian: Jeff Hamilton will discuss the use of LED's and Mark Couvillian will discuss the techniques for placing them in your models. An informative seminar on the use of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) in model railroading. A general description of LEDs, proper connections, voltage and current limits, multiple applications, and sources of affordable LEDs of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Jeff Hamilton presents the background on LED applications, sources for various LEDs, and supporting equipment for fixed applications. Mark Couvillion will address applications in locomotives and rolling stock with DCC decoders.

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Meetings

1. January 2017: Galveston Railroad by Spence Gaskin. Spence is an Engineer and Conductor on the Port Terminal Railroad and he will show slides and relate stories of his time working on the Galveston Wharves Railroad.
2. February 2017: The Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railroad by Pete Leach: Pete presents the history and operations of the Maine Two Footer that he is modeling.
3. March 7, 2017: Working with Pan-Pastels by Chuck Lind, MMR. Chuck will describe techniques and demonstrate weathering with pan pastels. Chuck an MMR has buikt and incredibly detailed On3 railroad with structures and rolling stock detailed and weathered. Come learn some of his secretes.
4. April 4, 2017: E-Units on the Santa Fe by Steve Sandifer. Steve will discuss the acquisition and use of E-Units on a railroad that is famous for its use of General Motors F-Units to pull its crack passenger trains.
5. May 2, 2017: The Greatest Train-Offs in History by David Currey. Dave will discuss in detail some of the famous trains discontinues in the 1950;s through 1971.
6. June 6, 2017: Texas Central Partners and then Bullet Train by Jacoby Ford. Jacoby Ford with the Texas Central Railroad will discuss the plans and progress on building a high speed rail line from Houston to Dallas/Fort Worth.
7. July 11, 2017: Texas & Pacific Steam in the 1940's – the Rail Photography of William D. Sandifer by Steve Sandifer. Steve will present a program featuring the black and white photography of his cousin William Sandifer taken primarily in the Shreveport, Louisiana and Marshall, Texas areas.
8. August 1, 2017: The Railway Post Office by David Currey. Dave will discuss the history and operation of the Railway Post Office cars that were operated by the United States Post Office Department from the mod 1800's until the early 1970's.
9. September 5, 2017: Freight Houses by Bob Barnett. Bob will discuss the form and function of the railroad freight house with photos of large and small freight houses and the LCL freight services that were offered by the railroad up into the 1970's.
10. October 3, 2017: British Steam Today by Don McClellend. Don will discuss the restoration of and total new construction of steam locomotives in Great Briton today.
11. November 5, 2017: Railroad Music by David Currey. Dave will present via electronic media the sounds and accompanying video footage of his favorite railroad songs.
12. December 2, 2017: No clinic or presentation was scheduled for our December meeting (aka Christmas Party). However a clear and concise presentation of greed and cut-throat completion was presented at our annual Gift Exchange.

Upcoming Programs for 2018
Division 1:
– Realistic Roof Details – by Mike Corley.
– Blank Boxcar to Trackside Feature – Part 1 – Painting
and Airbrush Techniques – By Bill Huebner and Duane Richardson.
- – Blank Boxcar to Trackside Feature – Part 2 – Decals
Done Right - By Bill Huebner and Duane Richardson.
- – Blank Boxcar to Trackside Feature – Part 3 – Weathering
Techniques for a Realistic Look - By Bill Huebner and Duane Richardson.

Membership Chair, open position – No Report.

Photography, Dave Lamberts – No Report.

Parliamentarian, Ray Byer reported:
We have an upcoming meeting in January and with all of the holidays between now and then. It is hard to think about Parliamentary Procedures dearing this time. I would like to give out some ideas to think about when you are sitting or standing in a department store waiting for your spouse or significant other to finish shopping.
So let's talk about How to present a Motion, there are procedures or rules on how to get a motion heard and by following them helps the meeting move along faster and easier. So let's start;
To start a Motion you must first obtain the Floor,
This is done by waiting till the last speaker has finished. Rise and address the Chair or in sum organization raise their hand until they have been recognized by the chair and then rise and address the chair. The Chair is the person who is holding the meeting. Say, Mr. President or Madam President or Mr. or Mrs. Chairperson and then state your name. The Chair will recognize by repeating it.
Now it is time to make your Motion.
Speak clearly and concisely, state your motion by saying "I move that we… or I would like to propose etc. Avoid personalities and stay on the subject.
And now wait for a second.
Another member will say, "I second the Motion." Or the chair will call for a second. If there is no second, your motion is lost or is dead. You can bring back your motion at another meeting but you will need to change the wording. But you gutting a second, before we move on.
The Chair States Motion
The Chair must say, it is moved and seconded. After this happens, debate or voting can occur. The "Motion" is now "assembly property" and it can't change without consent of the members or person to which the motion belongs.
Expand on the motion
The person who proposed the motion is allowed to speak first. Direct all comments to the chairperson (no personal attacks) and keep all comments short. Debate must be confined to the merits of the motion and the person who is debating must be recognize by the chair before speaking. Once a person has commented he or she yields the floor so the next person can

speak on the matter. After all persons has spoken, then you can be recognized again to make more committees this go's on until all questions have been answered. When debating on a motion, listen to all sides and others. Focus on issues, not personalities, avoid questioning motives and most important BE POLITE. After all questions have been answered, the Chairman or Chairperson will ask "Are you ready to vote on the question or motion?" alternatively, the motion for the previous question may be adopted.

Voting on the Motion

And now it is time to VOTE. The method of voting on any motion depends on the situation and the by-laws. There are five methods used by most organizations they are:

1. By Voice – the chairman ask those in favor to say aye or nay. A member may move for an exact count.
2. By Roll Call – each member answer Yes or No as his or her name is called. This method is used when a record of each person's vote is required.
3. By General Consent – when a motion is not likely to be opposed, the Chairman says " If there is no objection …." The membership shows agreement by their silence, but if one member says "I object" then a vote is required.
4. By Division – this is a slight verification of a voice vote. It does not require a count unless the chairman so desires. Members raise their hands or stand.
5. By Ballot – members write their vote on a slip of paper, this method is used when secrecy is desired.

Closing notes: Parliamentary procedure is a good way to get things done in a meeting. It only works when; motions are in order. You obtain the floor properly. You speak clearly and concisely. Obey the rules of debate and BE COURTEOUS.

I hope this helps you when you are waiting at a store during the holidays. I wish all of you well and see you at the next meeting.

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported:

We are gaining ground as more folks are sending in notices for up-coming events, though I am still getting some notices few days or so after I have submitted the column. There have been several folks who have called, following up with emails with more details.

Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details: bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all:

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

OLD BUSINESS

Gert Muller provided a budget report. Since this was just a report, no motion was made. He also informed us of the NMRA offer for Make-N-Take clinics:

Marc LaChey reported that the status of the Sn3 Symposium being sponsored by the LSR. He reported on the hotel status, all minimums met, and provided a general announcement about the clinics to be given. Several of the clinicians are highly recognizable names like Ken Ehlers, Tom O'Hara, Warren Judge, and our own Duane Richardson. This is a convention for all serious model railroaders, not just Sn3 railroaders.

NEW BUSINESS

The first order of new business was a discussion on the general status of Division 6. In recent months a number of complaints had been registered about the lack of activity in the division. Kevin Bergemen was contacted by Chuck Lind, and due to a number of life altering events in Kevin's life, Kevin stepped aside and has passed the baton so to speak to Don Winn. Don is running unopposed for the Division 6 Director's position and was due to take office on May 1, 2018. Kevin has allowed Don to speed up this transition. To affirm the appointment, Motion 8 was presented by Jeff Palmer, and 2nd by Jim Lemmond. After a brief discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.
The Youth Chair, Jim Lemmond, presented 4 youth candidates for review to the board.

The first was Chris Johnson-Carr for the LSR BOD Youth Award:
Chris Johnson-Carr just celebrated his 18th birthday in September and was voted into membership at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club. Chris is a young African-American whose single Mom is raising four great children. Chris is incredibly courteous and crazy about all things trains. Our hobby desperately needs to embrace and retain youth like Chris. Chris has been a blessing to our Club. He is in attendance every week, learning new modeling skills as we build our layout. He has also volunteered his time for the past two years at our annual Train Show. Not only has he participated, his mother has worked our concession stand both years as well. The Johnson-Carr's are a great family and the TWMRC is proud to have Chris as one of our members.

Motion 4 for Chris was made by Jim Lemmond and 2nd by Donna Orr. After a brief discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.
The second was Trey Wood for the LSR Division 1 Youth Award:
Trey (Jack) Wood, the grandson of the TWMRC COO, has been associated with the TWMRC since 2014 as a member of the "Youth in Model Railroading" group sponsored by the Texas Western MRC. Jack has been modeling in HO scale in the YMR and in the TWMRC. Jack received his first trainset (Lionel O-27) for Christmas at the age of 4, and has continually showed an interest in model trains after he was exposed to the Texas Western MRC and it's membership. Jack joined the YMR group to learn the techniques involved in building and maintaining a model railroad, and to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of a like-minded group of his peers.

Jack's skill set has grown into roadbed and track laying, soldering, structure construction, and model railroad operations. Jack and his Grandfather volunteered to build a 4' x 8' layout for a 'special needs' youngster for Christmas 2015. The boy's Grandmother had purchased track and rolling stock, but was unable to build a layout. Jack and his

Grandfather used an old 4' x 8' train board, and, with the rolling stock and track from the Grandmother, a few spare buildings donated by the YMR, a few scenery materials obtained from the TWMRC, and paint from his Grandfather's garage, constructed and wired up a simple layout with "operational possibilities" in the space of three days, delivering it to the boy's parents in time for Christmas. Jack also created a presentation about building the layout, presenting it to the Texas Western at their January 2016 business meeting, and a LSR Division 3 meeting a few months later. A copy of the presentation is included with these documents.

As a member of the Youth in Model Railroading group, Jack participated in the "rehabilitation" of a donated HO scale layout raffled off for the benefit of the YMR at a local train show; and is working on one module of the YMR modular layout, having completed the trackwork, wiring, and ballasting of track. The YMR layout has been seen at several train shows in the past few years in the DFW area. As his Grandfathers "associate" at the Texas Western, Jack has been improving his skills at soldering, track laying, and model railroad operations. Jack's first operating session (at age 11) was November 2016 on Chuck Ellis's layout in Austin, Texas. Jack also participated in the March 2017 Layout Design and Operations Weekend in Tulsa, Oklahoma, operating on the KCS 3rd Subdivision, Silverton & Lake City, and Claremore & Southern layouts.
Jack has been working with two of the Texas Western MRC's expert 'structures' people, and enjoys the challenge of building and "scenicking" simple structures. He will eventually graduate to craftsman, kitbashing, and scratchbuilding. Working with his Grandfather and other TWMRC members, Jack has contributed to bringing the TWMRC layout trackwork up to the operating condition it is today.

Motion 5 for Jack was made by Jim Lemmond and 2nd by Gert Muller. After a brief discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.
The Third was Sam Nicastro for the LSR Division 4 Youth Award:
Sam was born March 3, 2003, in Austin, and has been a member of NMRA since he was 3 years old – and proud of it. He has also been a member of OPSIG since he was 7, and has been to operating sessions from coast to coast. He models in all scales, with his own layouts in N, HO (modules), On30, and G scale, plus contributing to our HO empire. His current passion is working inside loco shells –
decoders, sound, lights, interior detail, and best of all rescuing nonworking engines from flea markets. He has recently been hired by a manufacturer to test decoder installations in Z scale locos to help them with product development. Beyond model trains, his real love is prototype steam; we have a wonderful time together traveling the country chasing and riding steam trains, including many cab rides (he has more than me, of which I am envious; when there is only room for one rider, he wins). He also plays guitar and piano, is a 2nd degree black belt in TKD, and is a super student.

Motion 6 for Sam was made by Jim Lemmond and 2nd by Riley Triggs. After a brief discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

The forth was Toby Buxton for the LSR Division 8 Youth Award:
Hi, I am Toby Buxton. My father, Kevin Buxton, joined the All Points North Model Railroad Club in 2015, to allow me access to their layout and facilities. I wanted to be a part of APN in part to learn more about

operations and how to properly maintain a layout, as well as electrical work. I am still learning about trackwork and how to properly build benchwork. I participate in almost every operating session and go to the club as many times as I can. I am still learning how to operate the hump yard and some of the more complex operations on the APN layout.

I have been interested in trains for as long as I can remember. I started my first layout (N scale) when I was 10 years old. I am currently starting to construct my second layout, an N scale 7' by 7' tri-level Lshaped layout based on the Minneapolis – St. Paul area in my bedroom. I hope to have the staging level benchwork done by Christmas.

Motion 7 for Toby was made by Jim Lemmond and 2nd by Don Kimmell. After a brief discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

Duane Richardson, LSR AP Chair, had a letter read in his absence by Jeff Palmer, notifying everyone of a schedule change in getting National AP awards approved The netter states:

To align with the printing deadline of the NMRA Magazine, National has changed the deadline for Achievement Program paperwork submissions. The deadline is now the 21st of each month. This moves the LSR deadline to the 19th to give me time to process the paperwork, scan it and get it sent to National. Division Directors, please pass this information along to your members and let them know. Also, let them know if they have some paperwork that may need an extra day have them contact me and I'll work with them to get them in before the deadline.

Ray Byer opened a discussion on modifying the handling of motions. Currently a motion is authored and presented to the Secretary for presentation at the next BOD meeting. It is at the BOD meeting where the motion is read, proposed, 2nd, discussed, and either withdrawn or voted on. The process is simple, but is flawed. The author of the motion should be the person of record proposing the motion. Since the motions are posted on the website in advance of the BOD meeting, the motion could then be 2nd by anyone reading the motion and finding it appropriate for presentation by simply sending an email to the Secretary and stating "I, 'state your name, ex. Jeff Palmer' would like to 2nd the motion (listing the motion name: ex. '20180127 Motion 1'". This simple process would eliminate the time in the BOD meeting spent finding a presenter and a 2nd, and allow the motion to go straight to discussion. It would also simplify the recording process of presenter and 2nd during the meeting allowing the Secretary to focus on the discussion. The BOD approved the process change. This process is going to be used to establish and refine the motion process over the next several board meetings.

With the passing of Jim Long, Bob Barnett has been the acting historian. He reported on the ongoing efforts to procure the historian information from Jim Long's family. He is confident that the past issues of the Marker Lamp and other documents will be retrieved. With the recovery from hurricane Harvey, the efforts have been hindered. At this time Chuck Lind moved forward with the ratification of Bob as the next LSR Historian by proposing 2018-01-27 LSR Motion 2 that was 2nd by Jeff Palmer and opened up to discussion. The discussion was brief and was voted on. The ratification passed

A new business item opened up by Chuck Lind was a review of the LSR Chairs. He wants to review the appropriateness of the chairs in light of the 501(c)(3) changes on the organization. No one who is still acquiring volunteer points will be effected, but the long term role of that chair may change or be eliminated. This is an ongoing evaluation.

The LSR has received a $1500 donation specifically earmarked to aid active military and/or veterans with NMRA memberships. This allows each Division to aid 2 such persons in each division. The person receiving the aid must possess an active service ID, a Veteran ID, or a DD214. This offer will be will only exist between now of the June Annual meeting where the unused memberships may be retrieved and redistributed. This offer is for NEW MEMBERSHIPS ONLY. At this time, the LSR does not know if this is going to be an annual process or not. All distributions of these funds must be coordinated through the Treasurer Gert Muller. Motion 9 2018-01-27 was created to handle the initial disbursement of 2 memberships to each division and stated the identification needed as stated above. The motion was proposed by Marc LaChey, 2nd by Gert Muller. After a brief discussion, the motion passed.

Donna Orr opened a discussion of an "umbrella 501(c)(3)" that would allow each division to accept donations. This discussion was lengthy and ended with several questions needing to be answered like 1) What changes would need to be changed in each division to allow the umbrella to take effect, 2) How will the donation effort be coordinated between the region and the divisions, etc. The discussion was tabled until the June Annual meeting.

Tom Marsh gave the final financial report for the 2017 convention. With the raffle money, the convention did not lose money, in fact, they paid the LSR $268.12 that will be returned to them. The agreement with the LSR is, Raffle money will be used to pay all bills, but once the bills are paid, the Raffle balance goes to the division. The LSR did not make any money, but it also did not lose any money.

Riley Triggs gave the status of the 2018 convention which he indicated was on schedule and on budget.

Marc LaChey opened a discussion on future conventions. The shorter format conventions. two day and/or three day conventions, was discussed. Marc got a commitment from Donna Orr to hold a modified 2019 convention. Marc has received commitment from Division 8 for the 2020 convention. Tentatively, Division 6, Don Winn, has stepped up for the 2021 convention.

Chuck Lind closed the meeting thanking everyone for their participation and expressed how he was looking forward to working with everyone on the BOD. He also announced that the Annual BOD meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 1 PM.
Chuck Lind closed the meeting at 12:10 PM

LONE★STAR
NATIONAL MODEL
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
REGION

NOW AVAILABLE!

Color

Pike and Dealer Ads

Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- **Do you have a herald for your railroad?**
- **Is there a unique feature?**
- **What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?**

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Payment should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Contact Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com

CCMRC 60th Anniversary Club Car

Order Form

The Crescent City Model Railroad club in Metairie, Louisiana still has a few of its Accurail Crescent Lines 50 foot HO Scale boxcar that was made to celebrate its 60th Anniversary in 2016. It is available for a donation of $30.00 for each car, plus $6.00 shipping for the first car and $2.00 for each additional car ordered. It is available in one road number that commemorates the clubs founding in March of 1956. Extra decals are also available for just $4.00 per set. To place an order, please send your payment made out to CCMRC for the correct amount to:

Crescent City Model Railroad Club
601 N. Lester Ave
Metairie, LA 70003-6131

CRESCENT LINES

Quantity: _____ X $30.00 each

Total for cars: $ _____

Shipping: $6.00

Additional Shipping per car $2.00 ea $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Thank you for supporting the Crescent City Model Railroad Club!

Director Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Mike Mackey
director@cowcatcherdivision.org
cowcatcherdivision.com

The first seven months of this term have seen Division 1 rebound to be a division on the verge of being one of the best in our region. In this short period of time the division has be able to accomplish the following:

1. Establish a Board of Directors
2. Obtain its 501c3 designation from the IRS
3. Start holding monthly meetings with and average attendance of 25-40
4. Establish several "make and take" clinics
5. Developed and obtained signage for a Division 1 NMRA booth
6. Built a Division 1 test track for use at train shows
7. Helped conduct three train show NMRA recruiting booths
8. Establish a Hurricane Relief Fund
9. Encourage division members to achieve over 15 Achievement Program certificates on their road to become Master Model Railroaders

Stay tuned for what the future holds!

Bayou Division 2

by Rod Fredericks
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225-939-0187

Recovery of the model railroading community from the Baton Rouge area flooding of August, 2016 has neared completion over the past half year. My club, the Mid-South Model Railroad Club had 27 inches of water inside the building, not enough to reach the bottom of the layout, but high enough to submerge the DCC and signaling systems, and storage cabinets under the layout containing supplies, tools and engines and rolling stock (club property as well as members' personal property). Also the interior walls had to be opened and dried, then replaced, and the flooring ripped out, cleaned and replaced. Then it was on to replacing all of the electronics under the layout, signaling and dcc systems, as well as some wiring. Needless to say, it was a long and tedious all hands effort. But the doors are open now and the trains are running! I would like to add, that without the fire and casualty insurance policy offered by the NMRA and bought by the Mid-South, we would never have been able to rebuild. What a bargain the NMRA provides. The final settlement was in excess of $10,000. (Thanks Keith!)

However, the future of the Mid-South is still in question. As a result of the flooding the original owners were forced to sell the building. The deal we had with them was rent free. The new owner wishes us to stay, but this is a business investment for him, and there is the question of being able to meet his rent. Surely not at the pre-flood membership number, but so far we have increased membership substantially. And we must continue to do so.

A number of other model railroaders experienced home flooding and three layouts were damaged to various extents. But Jim Loftland's Tall Timber home layout is again alive and well. He has finished the refurbishments and the trains are running again.

Activity at the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club north of the city in Jackson, LA, continues with numerous events hosted during the holiday season as well as the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, LA. These events continue to receive large turnouts, as did one hosted at the Mid-South. This latter event saw some 1400 visitors walk through our doors.

North East Texas Division 3

by Donna Orr
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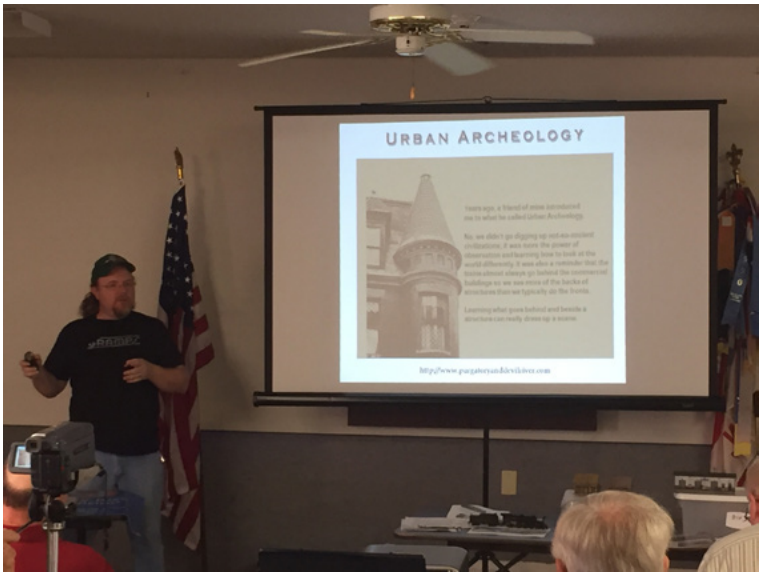
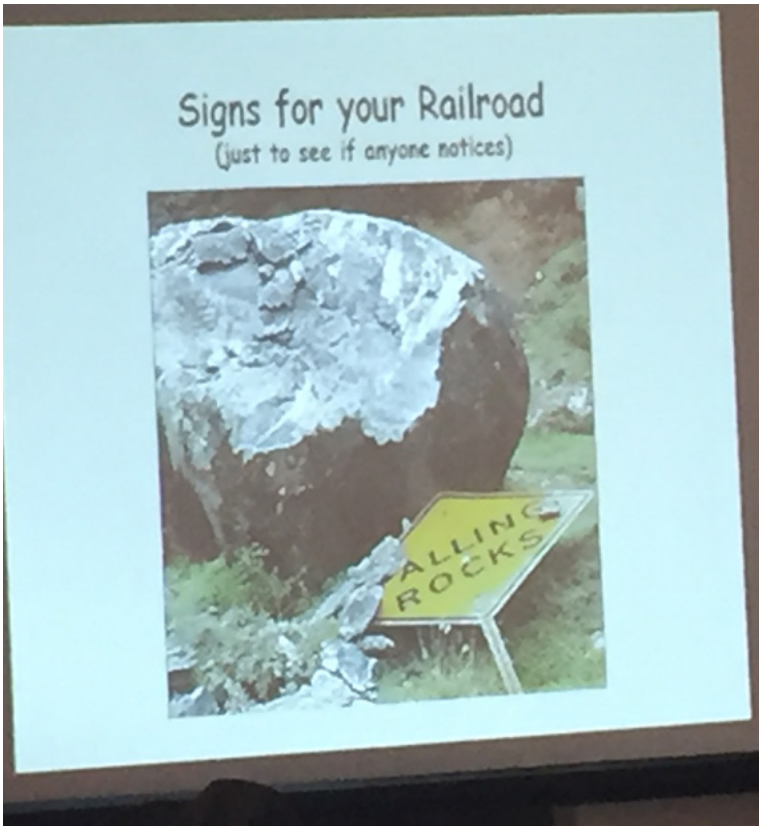
972-342-8598

Here we are at the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. We have had our monthly meetings in 2017 and decided to change things up for 2018. Many of our clinics have been education/power point sessions. But for 2018 we are going to be having more make and take clinics. We have 5 months of make and take clinics planned so far for 2018. And planning for more.

Here is what has been happening at the end of 2017. Novembers' educational clinic was "Urban Archaeology" presented by Duane Richardson. You should have been there to here and see what Duane "dug up". We also had some ideas on signs for our model railroads. (just to see if anyone notices)

And then in December, we had our annual Christmas Party. Weather was better this year than last. We all had a great time, just a Very Merry Christmas Party of the old fashion kind.





Our division has been doing well at acquiring new members, but not always the best at keeping members or keeping them interested. So we have started a mentoring program. This great idea was brought to the Division by Dennis Rice. The program has several categories where members can mentor new members. There are even those that have volunteered to mentor new members and have asked for mentorship themselves on other areas that they are interested in. Dennis Rice is our membership

And then just to keep us going with something to do after Christmas, Craig Tribuzi had a "hands on" clinic using casting resin and geodesic foam to cast rocks.

CenTex Division 4

by Peter Kazmir
pakazmir@gmail.com
CenTexNMRA.org

We are keeping busy in Central Texas!

We've had one Division meetup so far this year, in January. Don Chaney gave a great presentation on easy, inexpensive and realistic layout projects, including tips on building rivers, roads and trees, weathering and painting, creating ground cover, building a unique type train board/table top and facia, and more. Afterwards, we toured George Zapalac's HO Scale Dallas Union Terminal and Steve Jackobs' HO scale Austin & Taylor & Pacific railroads.

Pictures and detailed recaps from each meetup, as well as pictures and information about these and other layouts across our Division, are posted on our website, centex-nmra.org. The site also hosts a discussion board open to the public.

Our next meeting will be March 10 at the Austin Northwest Recreation Center. Details and directions are available at https://centexnmra.org/meeting.html.

We are busy working to get the Austin Eagle – your 2018 NMRA Lone Star Region Convention - ready for flight June 13-17, 2018, at the Wingate Round Rock Hotel and Conference Center. The convention will include over 70 clinics and presentations, over 30 model railroads hosting layout tours and operating sessions, prototype tours including the Austin Steam Train Yard and the Capital Metro Dispatching Center and Maintenance Facility, a huge silent auction, a contest room that'll blow your socks off, and more! And to top it off, we're excited to have as our keynote speaker Trevor Marshall, long time model railroader, host of the Model Railway Show podcast and TrainMastersTV, and frequent contributor to Railroad Model Craftsman and Model Railroader – plus guest clinician Lance Mindheim, model railroader and custom model railroad designer and builder. Registration is now open – check out austineagle.org for more details. We hope to see you in Round Rock in June!

The Austin Model Railway Society is also gearing up for operations, with phase 1 of their modular layout complete! They are also working towards hosting the 2018 Austin Area Train Show on May 5 and 6 (see https://austinrailway.org/trainshow.html for details).

Can't wait for the summer!

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
DavidWL1944@aol.com
806.792.7244

Last month I was honored and humbled by being awarded the NMRA's Presidents's award. The plaque reads ". . . . for service to the division in model railroading . . . . in grateful appreciation for your contribution of time and talent to your local division of the lone star region." I am sure there are many members of the division at least as worthy as I. Thanks to Charlie Getz and the NMRA.

We had our Chinese Christmas gift exchange last month. Everyone in the room who brought a gift draws a number. Whoever draws number one picks a gift from the "gift table." Whoever has number two may either steal the gift from number one, or go to the "gift table." Ditto for number three. Our club has been doing this for years.

Lots of fun.

Division 6

by Don Winn
donnswinn@gmail.com
940.391.0950

Howdy Division Sixers,

I'm Don Winn. I have been recently appointed by the LSR board to assume the role of Division 6 Director to fill out the remainder of the current term. I am also running for the Division 6 Director position for the next term, and I appreciate in advance your vote of support in the upcoming election.

A little about myself, I have been active in the Division 1 and 3 activities in the DFW area for about 7 years. I model the Burlington in HO in 1966, set in my hometown of Aurora, IL. I have completed 5 of the AP awards, and am presently working on my structures and cars, but have a way to go with my modeling skills. Recently retired, I am close to moving into a brand-new train room (with attached house) in San Antonio.

My vision for the division is fairly simple: let's do something! I have heard that some of you are frustrated by the lack of activity, so let's work together to change that. I have found that the great value of NMRA membership is learning from each other at meetings and conventions.

We have some train shows coming up soon: the SAMRA Train Show on February 24-25 and the New Braunfels Train Show on April 14-15. We have secured tables at both shows to promote the NMRA. The plan is to have on-going walk-up clinics to attract people to find out about the NMRA. In addition to recruiting new members, I invite all of you current members to drop by to meet and chat about what you would like us to do in the division. I'll be there, and I hope you can join us. Please let me know if you can help staff the booth.

I believe it is important to start holding regular meetings again in the division. Division 4 (Austin area) holds bi-monthly meetings on the odd numbered months. Assuming that continues under their new director, I suggest we meet bi-monthly on the even numbered months. Depending on where you live, you may want to attend meetings at both divisions, and that's certainly encouraged. I'm looking at holding our next meeting in April, following the recruiting we do at the train shows.

Speaking of Division 4, they are hosting the LSR convention in June. This is very close for many of us in the San Antonio area, so I hope you can make plans to attend. It promises to be a great event.

Please drop me an email and let me know what direction you would like us to head as a division. If you can volunteer to share your experience and talents, perhaps holding a clinic at one of our meetings, that would be great.

I look forward to meeting y'all.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
elf4kcs@mac.com
318.798.7718

Hello again from North Louisiana, I hope everyone had a great holiday.

First off, upcoming events:

March 17th & 18th-
Cotton Belt Train Show
East Texas Fairgrounds
Harvey Convention Center
2000 West Front Street, Tyler, TX
Sat-10-5/Sun-10-4

May 19th & 20th Jefferson Train Show, Jefferson, TX
Sat & Sun 10-5 www.Historicjeffersontrainshow.com

Both of these shows are not large, but one can usually find some great bargains. Hope to see you there.

Also, let's not forget the upcoming LSR Convention May 13th-17th, in Round Rock. We are having it at the same place as the last convention there, which has some great facilities for our get-together. I know Riley and the folks there are planning another great one! Hope to see you there!

We survived another year-the 17th-of the KCS" Holiday Express. We saw 80,500+ visitors in 22 cities over 25 days. Also, over $170,000.00 was raised and donated to the Salvation Army. We all had a good time, I mean, how many people can say that they spent 10+ days living in a 9' diameter steel tube, taking 2 minute showers, eating off paper plates and enjoying every minute of it? Are we having fun yet?

That it for now, hope to see you at one of the upcoming events. So ..play trains!!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Jim Lemond
jimlem@verzion.net

Division 8 survived the recent Hurricane Harvey with minor damage to home layouts. We wish to give many thanks to LSR Division 1 for the financial help extended to a Division 8 member to help repair the member's home that was damaged in the hurricane. Thank you Mike Mackey for seeing this through.

The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club held another successful Fall Layout Tour during November of 2017. The tour was held on weekends throughout November and part of December.

Division 8 under the leadership of President Ray Byer, has hosted monthly hands on clinics throughout 2017, with increasing attendance. The Division is planning a continuation of clinics on a monthly basis in 2018.

The Division has nominated Toby Buxton from the All Points North Railroad Club in Conroe as its nominee for the Lone Star Region Youth Award.

Photo of the NMRA/LSR Booth at the World's Greatest Hobby Show held in Houston this weekend. The Division 8 members in the photo are (left to right) Gene Mangrum and Don Formanek.

2018 LSR Convention Special Contest

Your Contest Chairman, with suggestions from the "Peanut Gallery", has dug through a pile of old peanut shells and come up with a slightly nutty idea for this year's "Special Contest"!

The 2018 contest will be to build ANYTHING! There's just one catch - It must be built on a **peanut butter jar lid** (the 3 1/2" size). You can build whatever you want in any scale you want, but it must fit on the lid and not hang over the sides. (If you really wanna show off, you can even build it *INSIDE* the jar, but please take the peanut butter out first!) Engines, cars, structures, dioramas, etc., all are eligible. It can be as tall as you want (limited by the ceiling height in the contest room.) but nothing can stick out past the sides of the lid. We have a cylinder which we will slide over the model to make sure it conforms to the rules. For those in the larger scales, this will be a real challenge. You Z scalers might be able to build a layout!

Those are the basic rules, and the entries will be judged the same as other models, using the NMRA scoring and LSR rules. It can be in any category, so please let us know when you are entering that it is also in the "Special Contest".

Like last year, special awards will be presented to the First, Second and Third Place winners based on the highest scoring models from all categories. You have plenty of time for planning and building, so let's fill the contest room again. If you have any questions call me at 713-962-4035, or email me at Lorenmr@aol.com.

See you at the convention!

Nominations

by Blake Bogs
superchief15@yahoo.com

Howdy Y'all,

I hope your winter has been very productive. Here's a recap of what has been going on.

The Christmas break was not as successful as I wanted it to be. My modeling projects didn't get finished. On the plus side, every locomotive I wanted to finish was finished. On the down side, every freight car project I wanted to complete did not get completed.. As I noted above, for me it's a realization that I need to make more time for modeling.

At Petticoat Junction in January, we had a very different clinic. Mr. Buck Carson gave a clinic called Lighting Round. 45 minutes was spent as a group, simply discussing different questions. One suggestion someone had was to work 1.5 hours a day. Another suggestion was to have two or three projects going at once. Some people can't imagine having more than one project going at a time, but if you keep more than one project going, then you will have a sense of urgency to finish it.

In February, we had Pete Leach come and present a clinic on painting backdrops again. This time he successfully painted a mountain back drop during the meeting!

I would also like to take a minute to congratulate Pete Leach and Don Formanek who have both have received AP awards over the last few months! Keep up the great work guys!

Just a reminder, the LSR convention is coming up fast! The convention is going to be great this year! It is exciting to see all the plans come together once again to not only see old friends, but to learn new skills, make new friends, and show off your modeling. If you haven't already, get started on those new projects! The contest room will be open during the convention and they are ready to judge your model!

Additionally, election time is near. Our election will be conducted March 1, 2018- March 31, 2018. Please vote! If you have trouble voting, email me! My email is superchief1520@gmail.com. I will try to get back to you within 48 hours.

I'll finish this article with a few photos from last summer.

Keep them trains running,

Treasurer Report

Treasurer
by Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com
469-345-0022

We received a huge donation from Mr and Mrs Edwin Delattre with the intention to help model railroaders who are involved in our defense forces. A big thank you to the Delattres and also to those keeping us safe!

Third Fiscal Quarter of 2017/2018:

Beginning Balances (10/31/2017)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$28,467.86
Morgan Stanley CD Fund	$10,036.73
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	**$38,504.59**

(Not included in Total LSR Net Worth: Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $570, Division 2, 5 and 7 Rebate Funds: $225)

LSR Proceeds	
Morgan Stanley CD Fund Interest	$ 62.21
Delattre donation	$ 1500.00
NMRA Rebate	$ 931.00
Convention Proceeds	$ 268.12
Total Proceeds	**$ 2761.33**
LSR Disbursements	
Rebates paid to Divisions	$ 461.00
Division 5 Prior Disbursement	$ 36.50
Total Disbursements	**$ 497.50**
Net Proceeds-Disbursements	**$ 2263.83**
Ending Balances (1/31/2018)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$29,141.48
Morgan Stanley CD Fund	$10,098.94
Total LSR Net Worth	**$39,240.42**

(Not included in Total LSR Net Worth: Funds for the Bob Clark Award: $570, Division 2 and 7 Rebate Funds: $253, and the Delattre Fund of $1500)

Achievement Program

By Duane Richardson, MMR
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

To align with the printing deadline of the NMRA Magazine, National has changed the deadline for Achievement Program paperwork submissions. The deadline is now the 21st of each month.

This moves the LSR deadline to the 19th to give me time to process the paperwork, scan it and get it sent to National. Division Directors, please pass this information along to your members and let them know.

Also, let them know if they have some paperwork that may need an extra day have them contact me and I'll work with them to get them in before the deadline.

2018

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Next Issue
May 2018

Next deadline for
submissions is
April 15

The Marker Lamp

submittals and inquiries | rileytriggs@gmail.com